

POW!

ANNUAL 1971





AQUAVENGER
— CRIME-
BUSTER OF
THE SEAS!



NORSTAD
— RULER OF
THE DEEP!



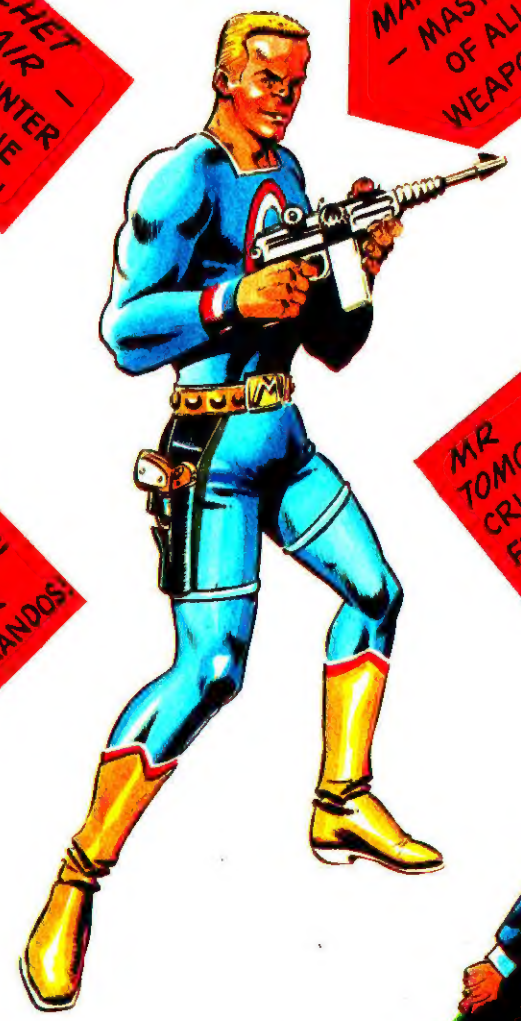
**CHET
BLAIR** —
THE HUNTER
AND THE
HUNTED!

POW!

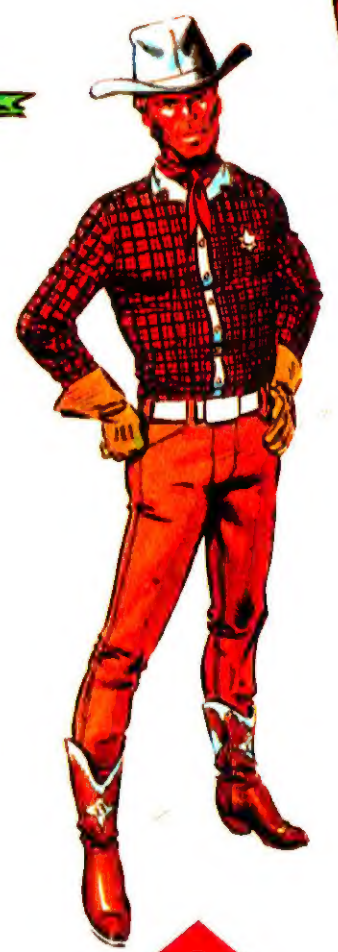
ANNUAL 1971



MARKSMAN
— MASTER
OF ALL
WEAPONS!



**MR
TOMORROW**—
CRIMINAL
FROM THE
FUTURE!



ELECTRO—
SUPER
SECURITY
AGENT!

MAGNO—
MAN OF
MAGNETISM!



**KASH
PEARCE**—
THE TIME-
RIDER!

**CRAG
TAYLOR**—
ONE OF THE
ESPER
COMMANDOS!



**THE
PHANTOM**—
FRAMED... AND
FIGHTING FOR
FREEDOM!



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MAGNO

MAN OF MAGNETISM

SANDY LAKER HAD GRADUATED AT A NORTHERN UNIVERSITY, AND WAS RETURNING HOME TO LONDON, AFTER TWO YEARS IN DIGGS . . .

WON'T BE LONG NOW!
BOY, I'VE ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT A GOOD OL' CUP OF EAST END TEA TASTES LIKE!

BUT AS SANDY REACHED THE EAST END PORTLAND DOCK AREA, AND HIS FATHER'S CAFE, A FROWN CREASED HIS BROW . . .

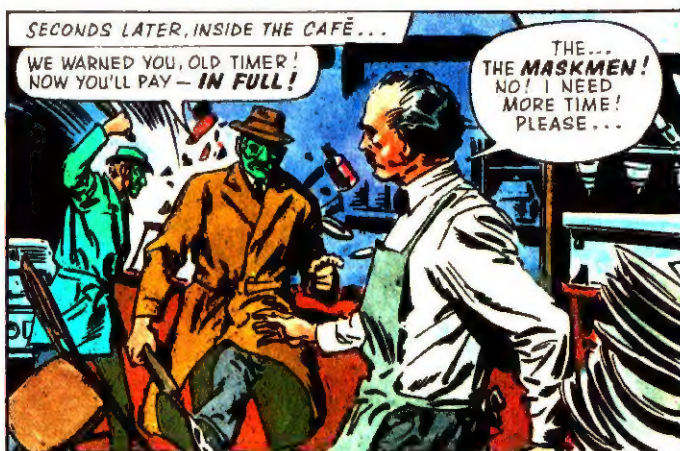
THE PLACE HAS CHANGED—ALL THOSE ROUGHNECKS. EVEN THE POLICE ARE PATROLLING IN TWOS!

AROUND THE NEXT BEND...

THERE'S THE CAFE.
HELLO, THOSE MEN... SURELY DAD'S CLOSED UP BY NOW?



THEY'RE NO ORDINARY CUSTOMERS! I'LL WATCH FOR A MOMENT TO SEE WHAT'S UP...



SECONDS LATER, INSIDE THE CAFE...

WE WARNED YOU, OLD TIMER!
NOW YOU'LL PAY — **IN FULL!**

THE... **MASKMEN!**
NO! I NEED MORE TIME!
PLEASE...

SANDY STRUCK SWIFTLY...

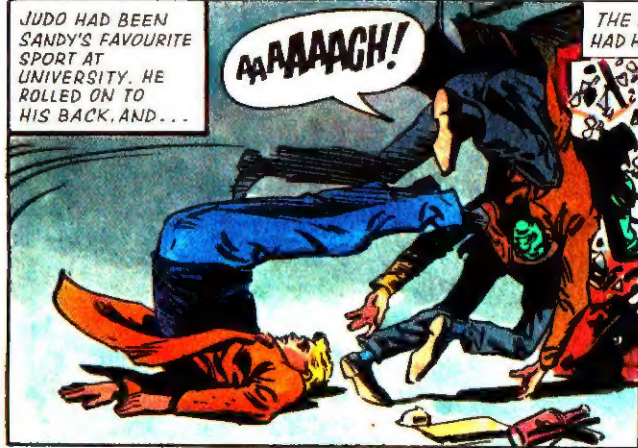
TRY **THIS** FOR SIZE, THUG!

WHAAAAA...

SANDY!



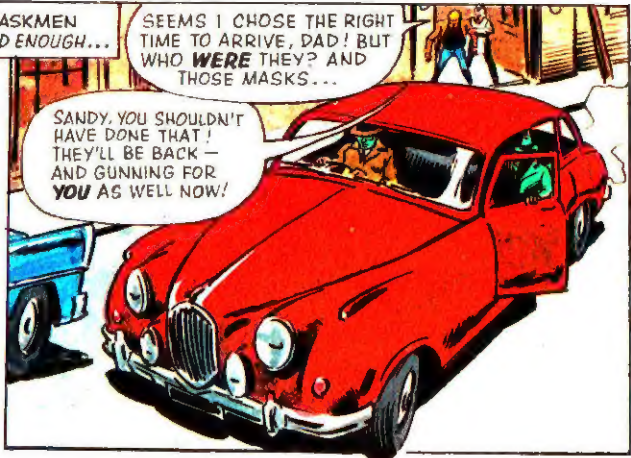
YOU'LL REGRET THAT, WISEGUY!



JUDO HAD BEEN SANDY'S FAVOURITE SPORT AT UNIVERSITY. HE ROLLED ON TO HIS BACK, AND...

AAAAAACH!

THE MASKMEN HAD HAD ENOUGH...



SEEMS I CHOSE THE RIGHT TIME TO ARRIVE, DAD! BUT WHO WERE THEY? AND THOSE MASKS...

SANDY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! THEY'LL BE BACK — AND GUNNING FOR YOU AS WELL NOW!



INSIDE, SANDY'S FATHER EXPLAINED...

THE MASKMEN ARE RACKETEERS—EXTORTIONISTS, SANDY. THEY'RE BEHIND EVERY CRIME IN THE AREA. THEY'RE DEMANDING PROTECTION MONEY FROM BUSINESSES, LIKE MINE. BUT I REFUSED TO PAY.

MAYBE THE POLICE CAN HANDLE IT...



AS SANDY TURNED FOR THE DOOR...

NO! THE MASKMEN ARE TOO POWERFUL. IF THEY LEARNED YOU'D BEEN TO THE POLICE...



BUT SANDY WAS UNDETERRED. LATE THAT NIGHT AS HIS FATHER SLEPT...

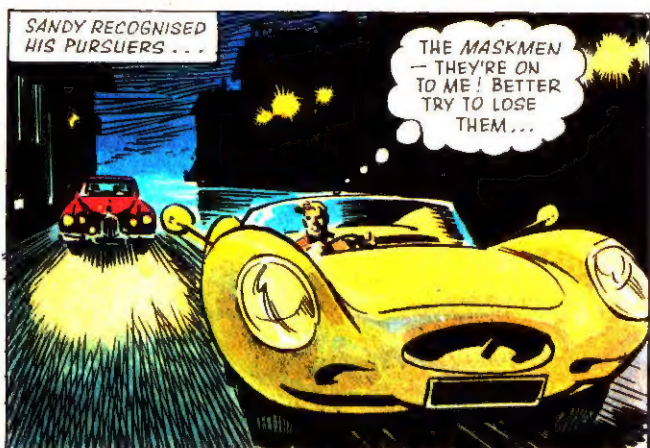
THE POLICE MUST KNOW ABOUT THE MASKMEN'S RAID—AND FAST—BEFORE THEY RETURN.



SHADOWS CONCEALED A PARKED CAR...

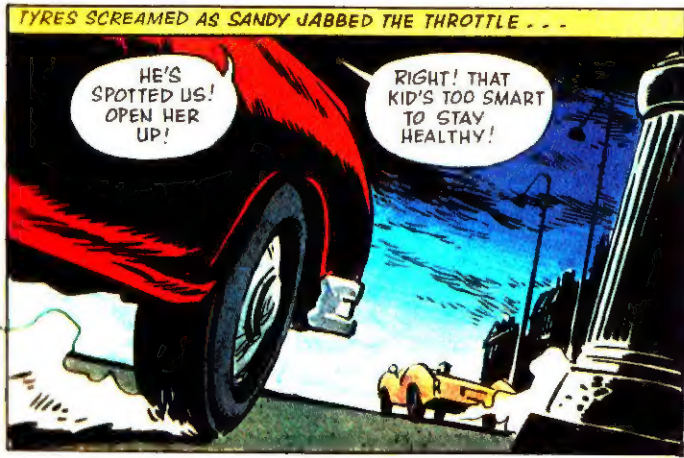
JUST AS I THOUGHT... THE KID'S GOING FOR A RIDE—TO THE COP SHOP, NO DOUBT!

HAH! THEN WE'LL SEE HE DOESN'T GET THERE! LET'S MOVE!



SANDY RECOGNISED HIS PURSUERS...

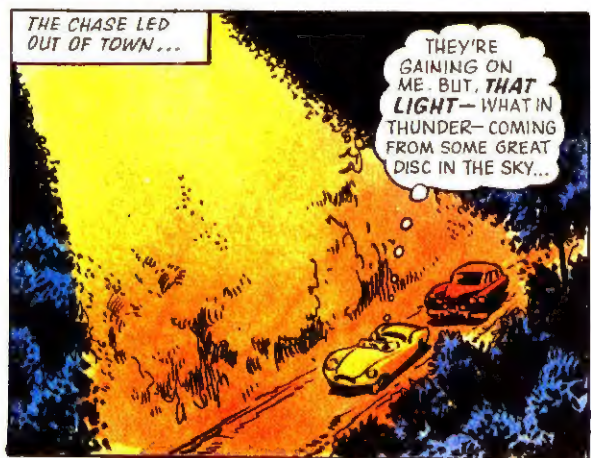
THE MASKMEN—THEY'RE ON TO ME! BETTER TRY TO LOSE THEM...



TYRES SCREAMED AS SANDY JABBED THE THROTTLE...

HE'S SPOTTED US! OPEN HER UP!

RIGHT! THAT KID'S TOO SMART TO STAY HEALTHY!



THE CHASE LED OUT OF TOWN...

THEY'RE GAINING ON ME. BUT, THAT LIGHT—WHAT IN THUNDER—COMING FROM SOME GREAT DISC IN THE SKY...

AS THE ROAD WIDENED AND THE LIGHT FROM THE GLOWING DISC GREW STRONGER...

CRUUNCH!

TURN! TURN! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! AND STAY CLEAR OF THAT LIGHT - IT'S UNCANNY!

SUDDENLY...

AAAGH!

KEEP GOING! THE MASK WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR ABOUT THIS LITTLE ACCIDENT! HA-HA!

AS SANDY LAY UNCONSCIOUS WITHIN THE WRECKED CAR, THE STRANGE LIGHT DESCENDED. IT WAS SOME SORT OF CRAFT... A FLYING SAUCER?

A POWERFUL THROBBING SENSATION STIRRED SANDY AS HE WAS BATHED IN THE CRAFT'S BEAM...

WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? I FEEL STRANGE... DIFFERENT. THAT DISC ABOVE... MUST GET OUT BEFORE THE PETROL TANK BLOWS.

EVEN AS SANDY THOUGHT OF ESCAPE...

UUUUUGH!

THUD!

UUUPH! TH-THERE GOES THE CAR. BUT IT WAS AS THOUGH SOMETHING INVISIBLE LIFTED ME CLEAR. AND MY BODY... IT'S... TINGLING!

THE LIGHT THAT SURROUNDED ME. AND THAT FLYING SAUCER. NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME, BUT IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY RESCUE. I WONDER...

AS THE SENSATION CEASED, THE WEIRD CRAFT VANISHED, TOO...

A WILD THEORY RACED THROUGH SANDY'S MIND AS HE REMEMBERED HIS WISH TO BE FREED FROM THE WRECKAGE AND...

I'M RIGHT! I REPELLED THAT METAL... BY THOUGHT. JUST LIKE I FLEW FROM THE WRECKAGE. THAT LIGHT BEAM... IT TURNED ME INTO A HUMAN MAGNET!

THE EXPLOSION ATTRACTED A PATROLLING POLICE CAR...

PHEW! WHERE'S THE DRIVER?

I'D BETTER GET AWAY. I CAN'T ANSWER QUESTIONS UNTIL I UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT OF THAT STRANGE LIGHT.

IT WAS DAWN WHEN SANDY REACHED THE CASE, BUT...

GOOD GRIEF - IT'S DAD! WHAT'S HAPPENED?



SANDY!
YOU'RE SAFE!
THE MASKMEN
RETURNED —
FIRED THE
CAFÉ. I...

YOU'LL BE ALL
RIGHT, DAD.
DON'T WORRY.
THE POLICE
WILL GET THEM...

DETECTIVE SERGEANT BILL MANNERS
LISTENED TO SANDY'S EXPLANATION. BUT OF
HIS FANTASTIC MAGNETISM, SANDY
REMAINED SILENT...

THE MASKMEN
WRECKED MY CAR
AND THE CAFÉ
BECAUSE WE
OPPOSED THEM...

IT'S A PROTECTION
RACKET. I'D GIVE MY
PENSION TO LAY HANDS ON
THE BRAINS OF THE GANG.
ALL I KNOW IS HE'S CALLED
THE MASK!

ALONE, SANDY
SWORE HIS
VENGEANCE...

A STRANGE POWER
CAME TO ME — AND
I MEAN TO **USE IT!**
THE MASK AND
HIS HENCHMEN
SHALL PAY
FOR THIS!

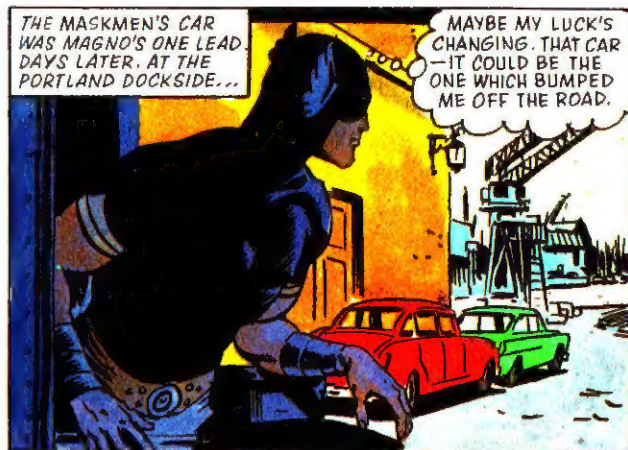


FOR DAYS AND
NIGHTS AFTER,
SANDY LABOURED
IN THE CAFÉ
BASEMENT...

THE SUIT I'VE MADE
WILL CONCEAL MY
IDENTITY. SO IT WON'T
BE SANDY LAKER
WHO HUNTS DOWN
THE MASK...

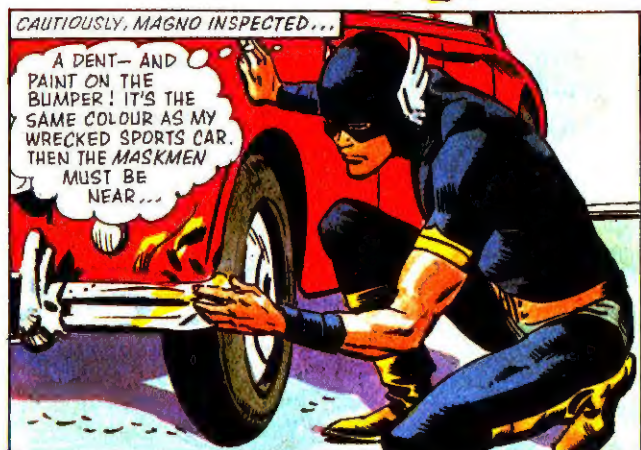


THAT
FLYING SAUCER
BATHED ME IN A
MAGNETIC FIELD. I CAN
ACT LIKE A MAGNET
WHenever I NEED TO —
SIMPLY BY **THOUGHT!**
MASK — YOU'RE ABOUT
TO MEET **MAGNO** —
**MAN OF
MAGNETISM!**



THE MASKMEN'S CAR
WAS MAGNO'S ONE LEAD.
DAYS LATER, AT THE
PORTLAND DOCKSIDE...

MAYBE MY LUCK'S
CHANGING. THAT CAR
— IT COULD BE THE
ONE WHICH BUMPED
ME OFF THE ROAD.



CAUTIOUSLY, MAGNO INSPECTED...

A DENT — AND
PAINT ON THE
BUMPER! IT'S THE
SAME COLOUR AS MY
WRECKED SPORTS CAR.
THEN THE MASKMEN
MUST BE
NEAR...

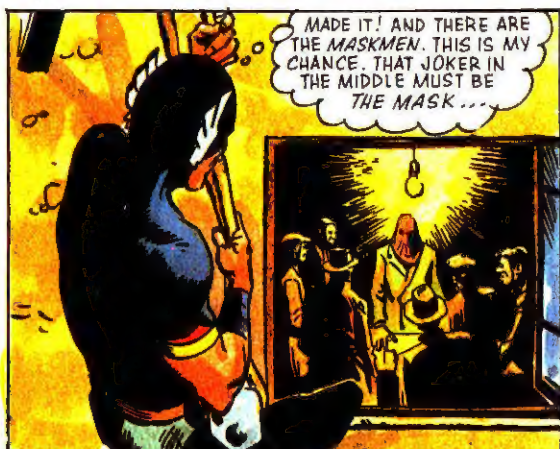


... THAT
LIGHT. A
DISUSED
WAREHOUSE
COULD BE JUST
THE PLACE FOR
THOSE HOODS
TO MEET.

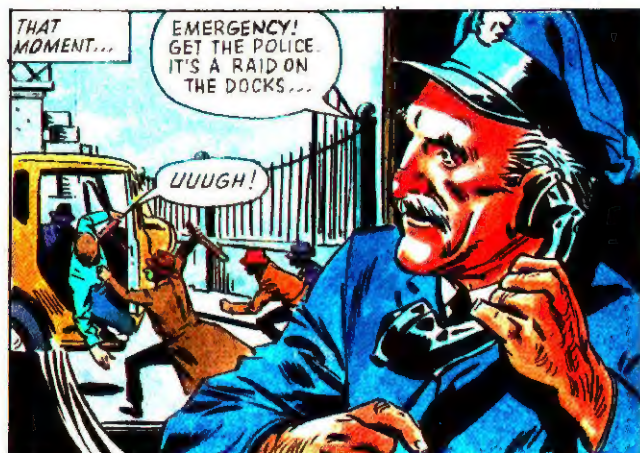
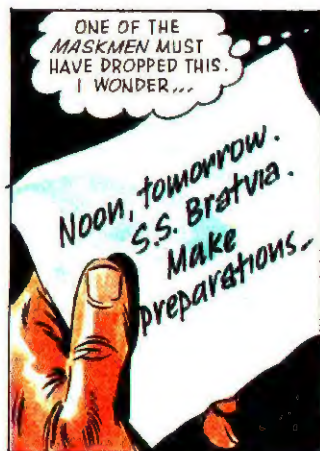
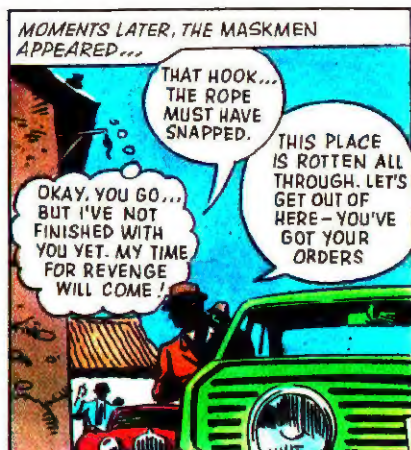
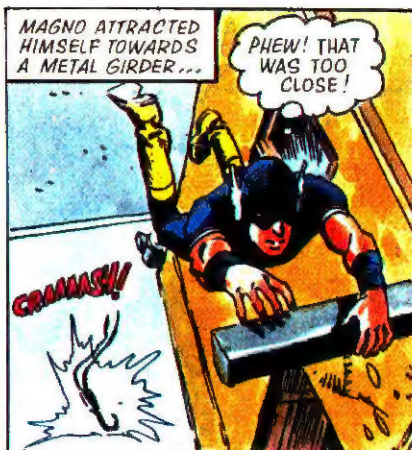


THEN...

BY ATTRACTING
MYSELF TO THAT
METAL HOOK,
I'LL GET A
RINGSIDE
SEAT...



MADE IT! AND THERE ARE
THE MASKMEN. THIS IS MY
CHANCE. THAT JOKER IN
THE MIDDLE MUST BE
THE MASK...

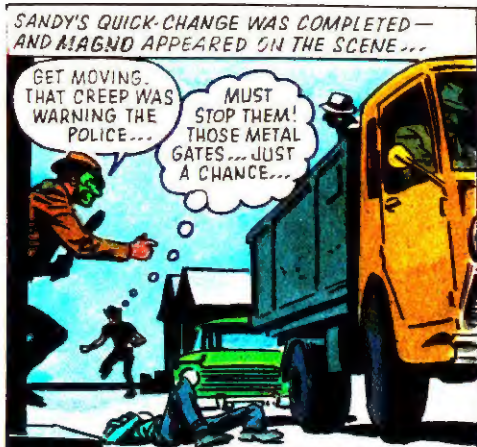




BUT BEFORE THE OFFICIAL COULD SEAL THE GATES...

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, GRANDAD!

NO... AAAGH!



SANDY'S QUICK-CHANGE WAS COMPLETED—AND MAGNO APPEARED ON THE SCENE...

GET MOVING. THAT CREEP WAS WARNING THE POLICE...

MUST STOP THEM! THOSE METAL GATES... JUST A CHANCE...



THE GATES—LOOK! THEY'RE CLOSING BY THEMSELVES. SWERVE! SWERVE!

OUT OF CONTROL! LOOK OUT... JUMP!



RUN FOR IT! THE COPS WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND! WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE GOODS!

MASK—I WANT YOU!



THEN...

YOU WANT TROUBLE... YOU'VE FOUND IT. GET HIM!

WHO—OR WHAT—IS HE? THAT COSTUME...



AS MAGNO DIVED, HIS POWERFUL MAGNETISM SENT SOME METAL DRUMS FALLING...

WHAT'D HE DO? LOOK OUT! THE DRUMS... AAAGH!

IT'S TIME YOU MASKED GOONS SLEPT!



HE... JUST MADE THEM FALL. HE... UGH!

YOU'RE SMART, MISTER—BUT HERE'S MY TRICK!



AT THE VERY MOVEMENT OF HIS FINGERS, CHAINS LEAPT TO MAGNO'S AID...

YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE, MASKMEN!

HE'S UNCANNY...



THE POLICE ARRIVED AND HELD THE MASKMEN—ALL EXCEPT ONE...

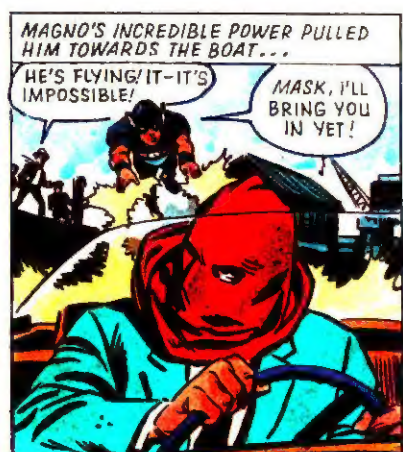
THE MASK... I WANT HIM, TOO!



THE SPEEDBOAT ROARED INTO LIFE...

YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, CURSE YOU!

THAT SPEEDBOAT'S HULL—MAYBE I COULD MAKE IT...



MAGNO'S INCREDIBLE POWER PULLED HIM TOWARDS THE BOAT...

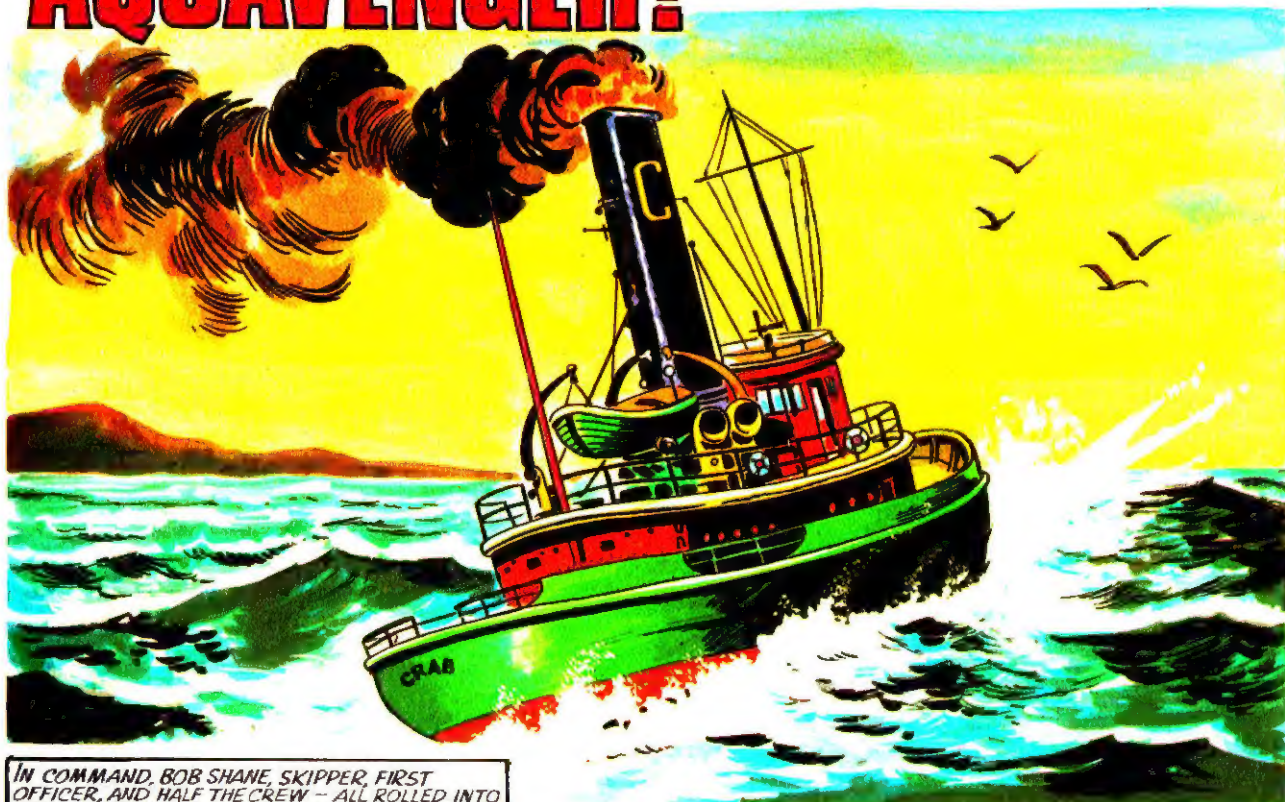
HE'S FLYING/IT—IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

MASK, I'LL BRING YOU IN YET!



AQUAVENTURER!

SCARCELY MORE THAN A RUSTY TUB, THE BATTERED COASTAL CARGO-VESSEL CRAB STRUGGLED UP THE NEW ENGLAND SEABOARD...



IN COMMAND, BOB SHANE, SKIPPER, FIRST OFFICER, AND HALF THE CREW -- ALL ROLLED INTO ONE! HIS ONLY COMPANION THE SALTY OLD BUDDY CALLED SHELLBACK...



THE TWO FROGMEN
MADE FOR THE
WHEELHOUSE...



WHAT THE
BLAZES?

NOT A MOVEMENT, PAL — OR
YOUR MATE GETS ROUGHED UP! JUST
GET THOSE ENGINES GOING AND HIGH-
TAIL IT OUTTA HERE!

WHO ARE
YOU, MISTER?
WHAT'S THE
GAME?



NO QUESTIONS,
BUD. JUST BEAT IT,
OR THIS TUB'S LIKELY
TO SINK WITHOUT
TRACE. AN' YOU
TWO ABOARD
IT!



THE FROGMEN VANISHED
THE WAY THEY CAME, AND
BOB LOST NO TIME IN
GETTING UPSTEAM.

WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT,
SKIPPER? STOW ME HAMMOCK,
BUT THOSE LUBBERS WERE UP
TO NO GOOD!



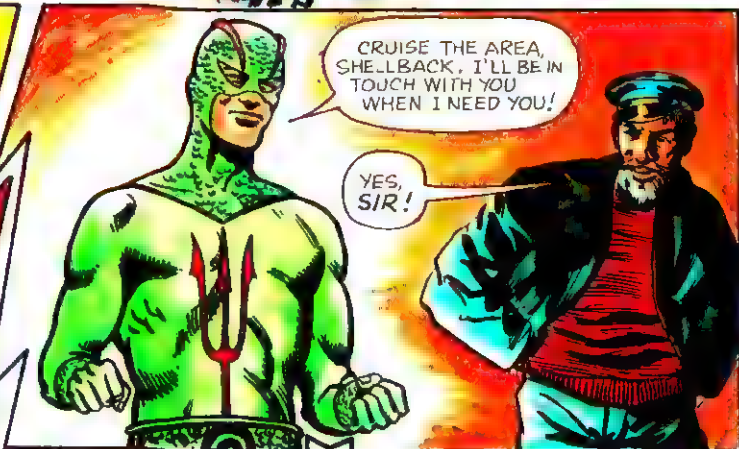
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHELLBACK.
FROGMEN OFF THE COAST OF
NEW YORK! AND SOMETHING
DOWN BELOW THAT MOVES
ABOUT. I GUESS THIS IS A JOB
FOR AQUAVENTURER!

A THUNDERCLAP BLASTED OUT OF A STILL, BLUE
SKY... AND IN THAT INSTANT, THE SKIPPER OF THE
CRAB WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A POTENT POWER
AGAINST EVIL... THE INCREDIBLE SUPER-BEING
KNOWN AS AQUAVENTURER!



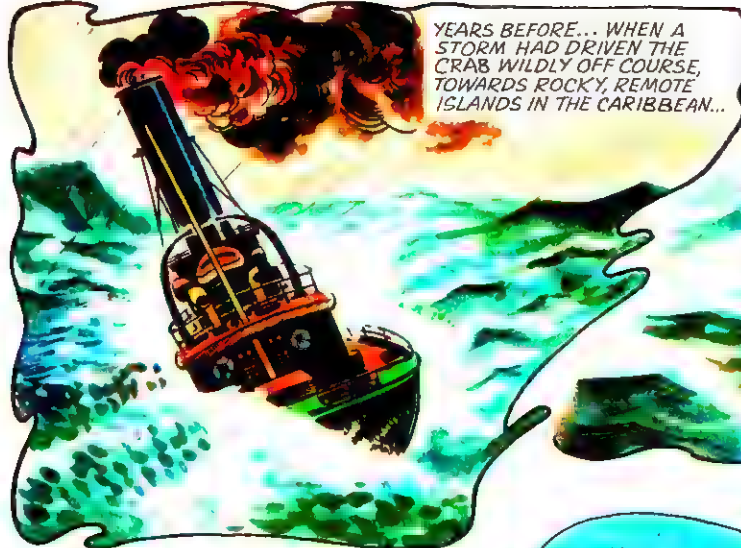
CRUISE THE AREA,
SHELLBACK. I'LL BE IN
TOUCH WITH YOU
WHEN I NEED YOU!

YES,
SIR!



NONE OF THIS
WOULD EVER HAVE
BEEN POSSIBLE IF
I HADN'T MET...
NEPTUNIUS!





YEARS BEFORE... WHEN A STORM HAD DRIVEN THE CRAB WILDLY OFF COURSE, TOWARDS ROCKY, REMOTE ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN...

ONLY THE SKILL OF BOB SHANE HAD PREVENTED THE SHIP'S DEATH AGAINST JAGGED ROCKS. AND ONLY HIS KEEN EYES HAD SEEN THE STORM-TOSSED WRECKAGE OF A PALM HUT AND THE HALF-DROWNED MAN CLINGING TO IT...



NEPTUNIUS THE HERMIT. A RECLUSE POSSESSED OF AGELESS POWERS... OF MYSTIC SKILLS...



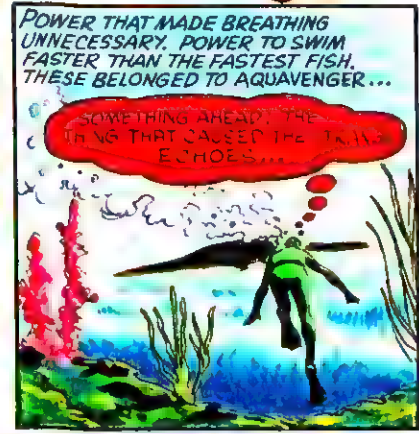
YOU... YOU WHO HAVE SAVED ME! TELL ME YOUR NAME, AND I WILL BESTOW THE POWER THAT IS MINE TO GIVE!

I MAKE YOU MY SON! I NAME YOU AQUAVENGER... AND YOURS WILL BE UNLIMITED POWER IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST THE POWERS OF DARKNESS! WHEN YOU SAY THE NAME THAT I GIVE YOU, YOU SHALL BE INVINCIBLE!



WISH ME LUCK, SHELLBACK... AND NEPTUNIUS, WHEREVER YOU ARE... GUARD ME AS YOU HAVE DONE SO OFTEN BEFORE! LET EVIL BEWARE...

DOWN, DOWN HE DIVED...

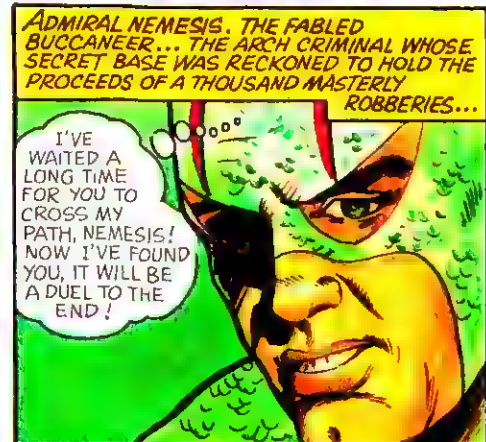


POWER THAT MADE BREATHING UNNECESSARY. POWER TO SWIM FASTER THAN THE FASTEST FISH. THESE BELONGED TO AQUAVENGER...

SOMETHING AHEAD! THE THING THAT CAUSED THE TALL ECHOES...

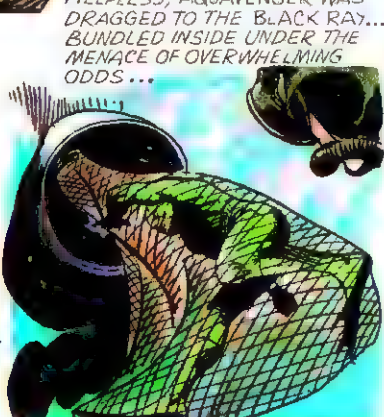
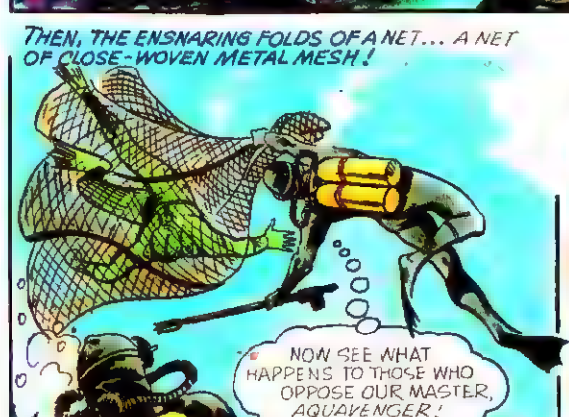
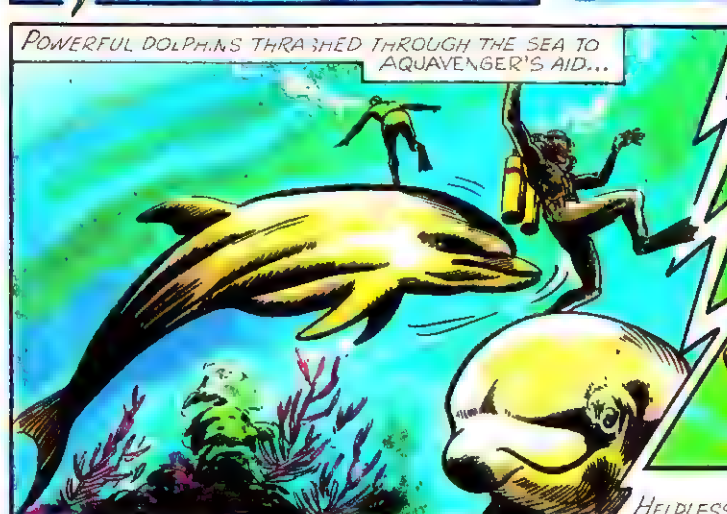
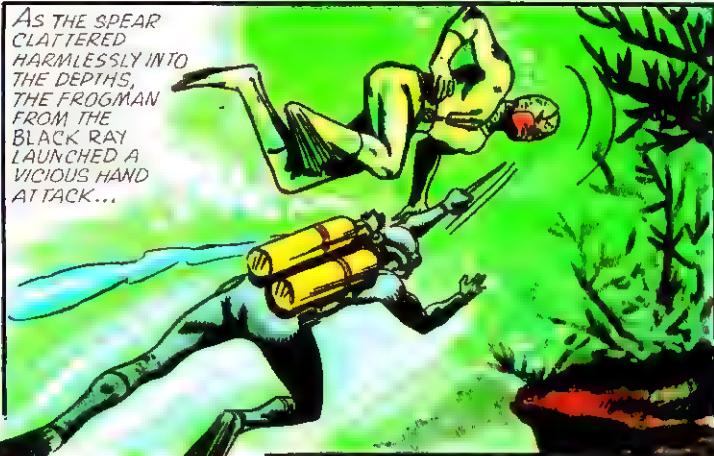


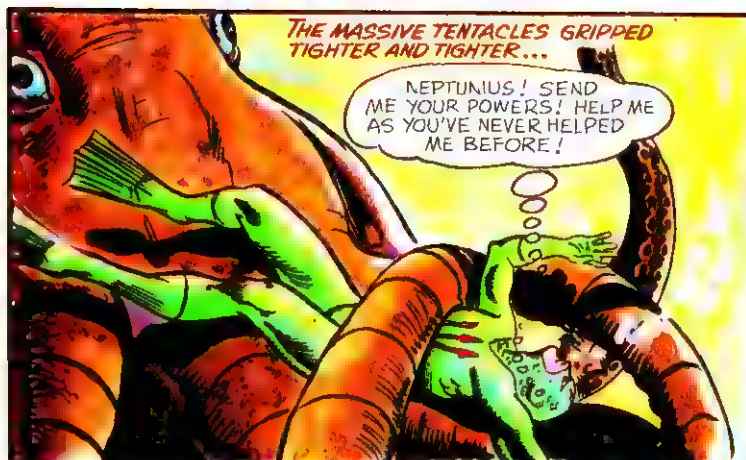
IT'S... IT'S THE BLACK RAY! THE DARK SHIP OF ADMIRAL NEMESIS HIMSELF! SO THOSE WERE HIS MEN WHO CAME ABOARD THE CRAB!



ADMIRAL NEMESIS. THE FABLED BUCCANEER... THE ARCH CRIMINAL WHOSE SECRET BASE WAS RECKONED TO HOLD THE PROCEEDS OF A THOUSAND MASTERLY ROBBERIES...

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR YOU TO CROSS MY PATH, NEMESIS! NOW I'VE FOUND YOU, IT WILL BE A DUEL TO THE END!



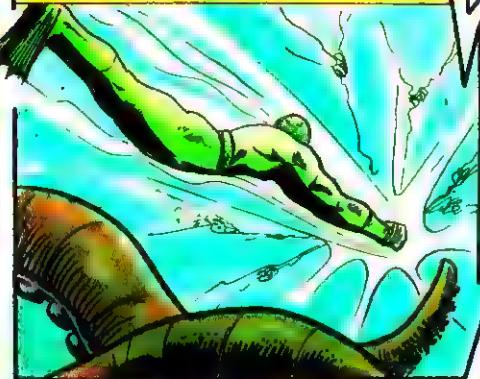


FROM THE MYSTIC STORE-ROOMS OF POWER THAT CONTROLLED THE MAGIC NAME, CAME A LAST DESPERATE BURST OF ENERGY...

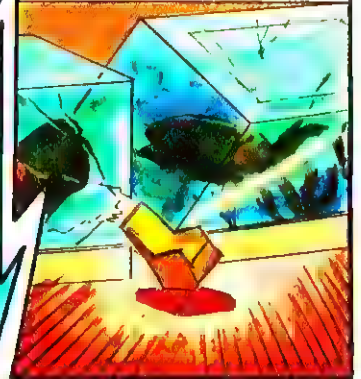


NOW!
MY ONLY
CHANCE...

AQUAVENGER DIVED, HIS BUNCHED FISTS SLAMMING AGAINST THE TOUGHENED GLASS OF THE TANK FLOOR...



BEHIND THE SHATTERED GLASS, AQUAVENGER GOT HIS HANDS BENEATH THE TANK AND LIFTED...



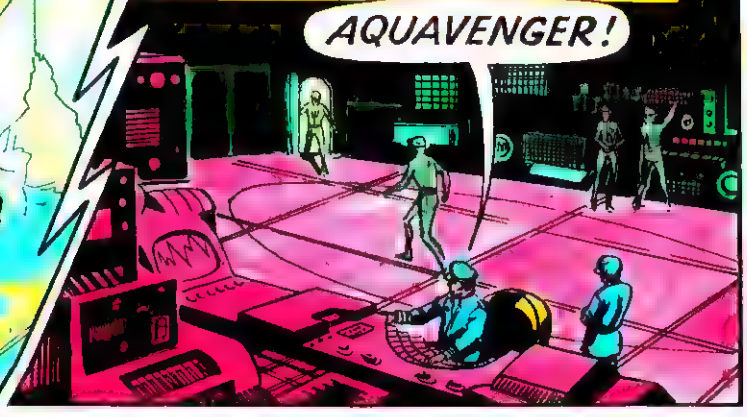
BEFORE ANY MAN COULD MOVE, AQUAVENGER SHOT POWERFULLY UPWARDS... AND A PRESSURE HATCH CRASHED OPEN AGAINST INCREDIBLE FORCE!



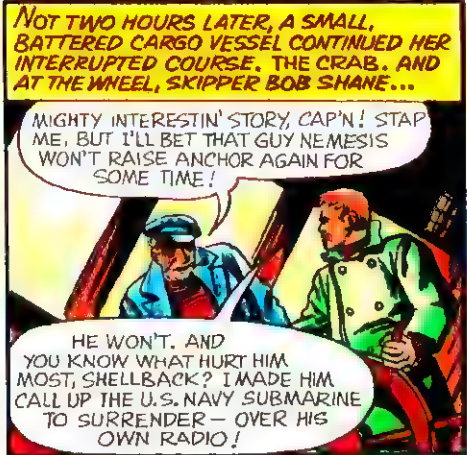
CLOSE IT, YOU FOOL! YOU'LL DROWN US! YOU'LL DROWN US ALL!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CONTROL ROOM...

AQUAVENGER!



WATER SURGED WAIST-DEEP... AND FEAR TURNED NEMESIS TO JELLY!



THE WORLD HAS JUST RECOVERED FROM A SHOCK-WAVE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE BROUGHT ABOUT BY ONE OF THE CLEVEREST AND MOST RUTHLESS CRIMINALS THIS PLANET HAS EVER KNOWN. A CRIMINAL WHOSE STRANGE PAST AND AMAZING ABILITY TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE HAVE NOW BEEN UNCOVERED... AND CAN AT LAST BE REVEALED. FOR THE FULL FACTS WE MUST TRAVEL TO THE YEAR 2971 — THERE, IN A CITY COURTROOM, WE MEET...

MR TOMORROW

CRIMINAL FROM THE FUTURE

THE COURT HAS FOUND YOU GUILTY OF CRIMES SUCH AS CANNOT BE TOLERATED IN OUR DAY. YOU ARE THEREFORE SENTENCED — TO BE CAST INTO ETERNITY!

DO YOUR WORST!
I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING
I'VE DONE!



AT THE APPOINTED TIME THE WRONGDOER WAS LED TO THE PLACE WHERE SUCH SENTENCES WERE CARRIED OUT...



EXECUTIONER!
PREPARE THE TIME-
EJECTOR!

THE PRISONER WAS LOCKED IN POSITION, AND...



NOW!

SO PERISH
ALL VIOLATORS OF
OUR LAW!

ANYTHING
WRONG?



I - I'M NOT
SURE. JUST THAT
THE CURRENT DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE
REGULATING
CORRECTLY.

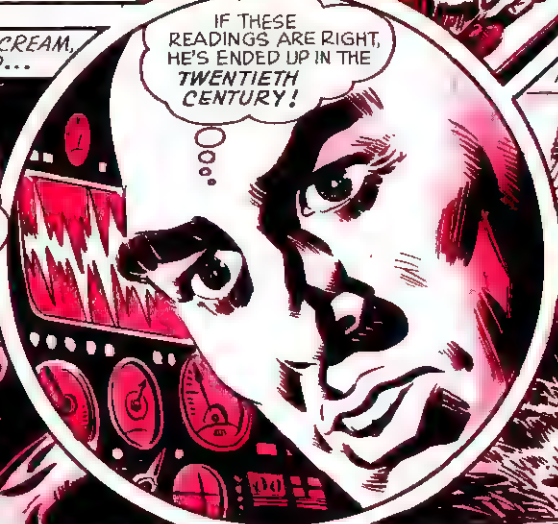
A MOMENT LATER - A MUFFLED SCREAM,
AND...



HE'S
GONE!

YES...
BUT
WHERE'S
HE GONE?

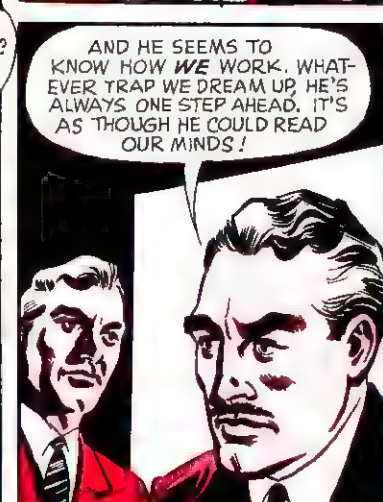
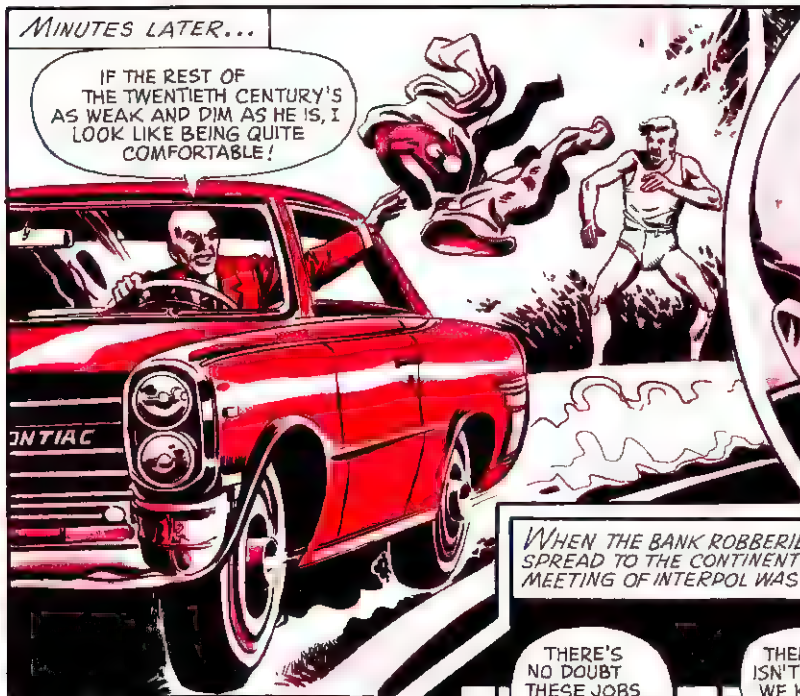
IF THESE
READINGS ARE RIGHT,
HE'S ENDED UP IN THE
TWENTIETH
CENTURY!



A STRANGE JOURNEY THROUGH
TIME... AND THE CRIMINAL
RE-APPEARED IN THE PRESENT DAY!



WELL, IF THIS
IS ETERNITY IT DOESN'T
SEEM TO HURT
MUCH!



MEANWHILE, IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE...

TO ME, EVERYTHING
HERE HAS ALREADY HAPPENED.
I CAN LIVE IN HISTORY AND
REMOULD IT TO MY WISHES
BECAUSE I ALREADY KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO
DO NEXT! WHAT A
SET-UP!



ARMURIER

PIERRE



NOW
THEY'RE
DOUBLING AND
TREBLING GUARDS
ON EVERY BIG
BANK, IT'S TIME
TO MOVE ON -
TO A DIFFERENT
SORT OF
CRIME!

BUT WHEN
I KILL... I AM
PARTICULAR WHO
MY VICTIMS
ARE!



CAN I HELP
YOU, SIR? DO YOU
LIKE THAT
MODEL?



A SHADE
ANCIENT FOR MY
TASTE, BUT NO
DOUBT IT WILL
SERVE MY
PURPOSE.

AND THE CRIMINAL FROM THE FUTURE SOON
REVEALED THAT PURPOSE. AT AN IMPORTANT MILITARY
OCCASION...

HE'S BEEN
SHOT!



MONSIEUR
GÉNÉRALE!

THAT WAS THE FIRST ASSASSINATION.
OTHERS FOLLOWED: SOLDIERS,
STATESMEN, PRIME MINISTERS...

WHERE
IS HE?

WHY ASK
ME? NOBODY'S
EVER GOING TO
CATCH THIS
GUY! HE'S
TOO FAST!



THE CRIMES BROUGHT ABOUT WORLD CRISIS.
THE UNITED NATIONS MET...

GENTLEMEN, YOU KNOW
WHY WE ARE HERE. FIRST I WILL
ASK YOU TO WATCH THIS FILM
SPECIALLY FLOWN IN...

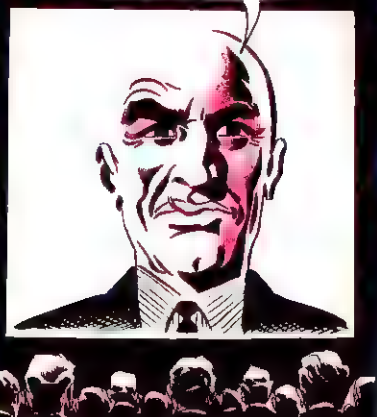


THE DELEGATES SETTLED DOWN,
AND A FILM - MADE BY THE CRIMINAL
SPECIFICALLY TO TANTALISE -
WHIRLED INTO MOTION...

GREETINGS, BUFFOONS! I AM
MR TOMORROW - I AM A
THOUSAND YEARS SUPERIOR TO
YOU IN EVERY WAY. I HAVE
SHOWN YOU MY POWER. I ROB
YOUR BANKS. I KILL YOUR
LEADERS! AND YOU ARE
POWERLESS TO STOP IT!



YOU CANNOT TAKE ANY
DEFENSIVE MEASURES WITHOUT
MY BEING IMMEDIATELY AWARE
OF IT. SINCE I AM MORE POWER-
FUL THAN YOU, IT FOLLOWS YOU
MUST ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS
WORLD LEADER - OR DIE!

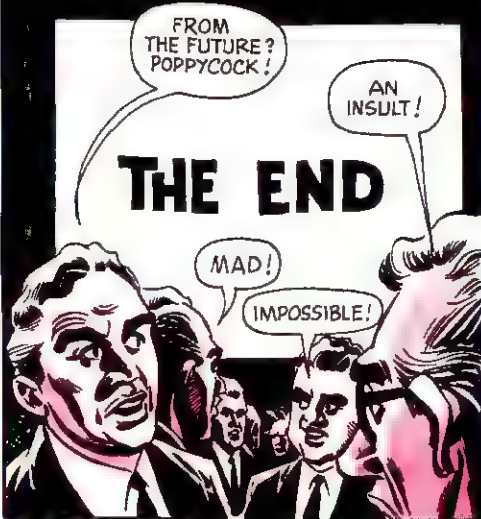




YOU HAVE A WEEK, UNLESS YOU AGREE, I SHALL BLOW THIS BUILDING UP, AND ALL OF YOU WITH IT!

HE MUST BE OUT OF HIS MIND!

AS MR TOMORROW'S FACE DISAPPEARED, PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT...



FROM THE FUTURE? POPPYCOCK!

AN INSULT!

THE END

MAD!

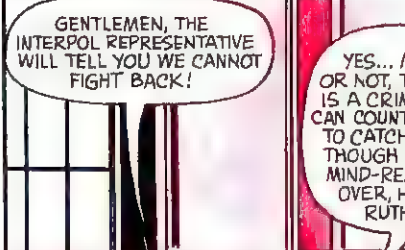
IMPOSSIBLE!



LET US FACE FACTS! WE MUST DO AS HE SAYS, OR THE WORLD FACES RUIN!

NEVER! WE MUST FIGHT BACK!

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT DISCUSSION WENT ON IN COMMITTEE ROOMS...



GENTLEMEN, THE INTERPOL REPRESENTATIVE WILL TELL YOU WE CANNOT FIGHT BACK!

YES... MAD OR NOT, THIS FELLOW IS A CRIMINAL WHO CAN COUNTER ANY PLAN TO CATCH HIM, AS THOUGH HE WERE A MIND-READER. MORE-OVER, HE'S UTTERLY RUTHLESS!

TO HIM WE ARE NOT HUMAN. JUST CHARACTERS IN A HISTORY BOOK TO MOVE ABOUT AT WILL. *HIS* WILL...



THEN PERHAPS WE SHOULD GIVE IN AND DO AS HE SAYS?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE RECEPTION...



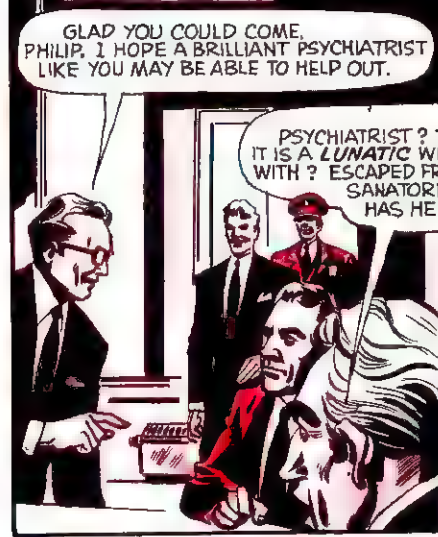
I AM PHILIP MANDER, PSYCHIATRIST.

YES, SIR, THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.

PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS HE SAYS. HE'S COME FROM THE FUTURE...

THEN YOU BELIEVE HIS STORY, PHILIP?

MINUTES LATER...



GLAD YOU COULD COME, PHILIP. I HOPE A BRILLIANT PSYCHIATRIST LIKE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP OUT.

PSYCHIATRIST? THEN IT IS A LUNATIC WE'RE DEALING WITH? ESCAPED FROM YOUR SANATORIUM, HAS HE?



I'M AFRAID NOT. FROM ALL I'VE HEARD OF THIS MAN'S CRIMES THEY FOLLOW TOO LOGICAL, TOO RUTHLESS A PATTERN FOR HIM TO BE DERANGED.

HOW DOES HE READ OUR MINDS? FOIL EVERY TRAP?



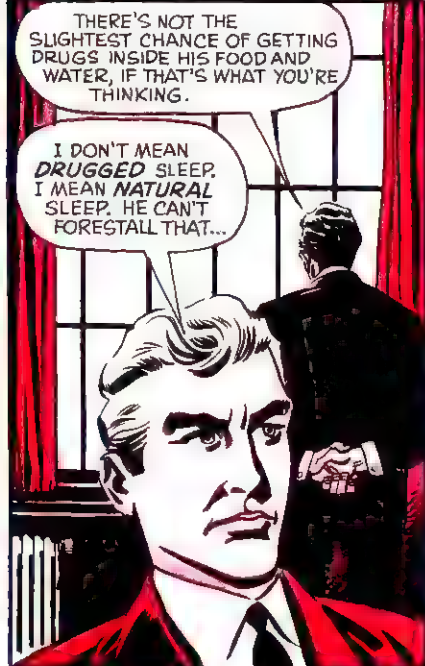


I MERELY MEAN LET'S TAKE HIM AT HIS OWN VALUE. THAT WAY WE WON'T SLIP UP WHEN WE TRY TO CATCH HIM.



I TELL YOU HE CAN'T BE CAUGHT, PHILIP. HE NEVER STAYS IN ONE PLACE LONG ENOUGH!

BUT YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING. THIS MAN MUST SLEEP!



THERE'S NOT THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF GETTING DRUGS INSIDE HIS FOOD AND WATER, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.

I DON'T MEAN DRUGGED SLEEP. I MEAN NATURAL SLEEP. HE CAN'T FORESTALL THAT...



YOU'RE A DETECTIVE, FRANK. FIND OUT WHERE HE IS. I'LL DO THE REST!

BUT IF HE *IS* FROM THE FUTURE THEY MAY HAVE *OVERCOME* SLEEP IN HIS TIME.



AS LONG AS HE'S HUMAN HE NEEDS SLEEP. NONE OF US CAN DO WITHOUT IT. NATURE IS GOING TO BE OUR ALLY AGAINST MR TOMORROW. BUT FIRST *FIND* HIM!

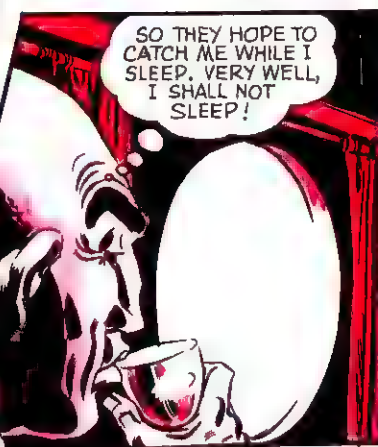


AT THAT VERY MOMENT THE ARCH-CRIMINAL WAS HIGH ABOVE THE ATLANTIC...

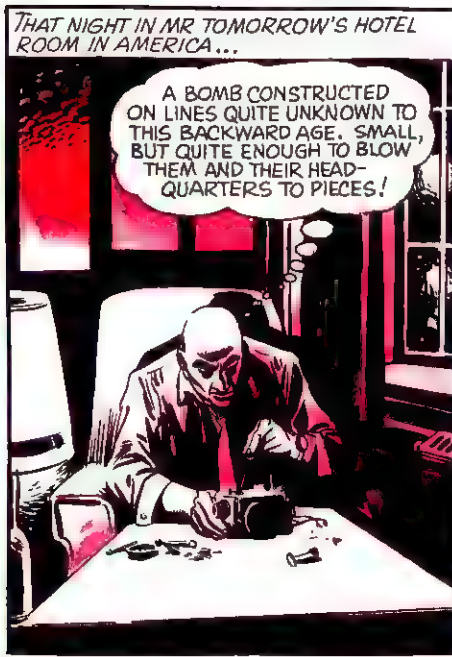


IN A COMFORTABLE AIRLINER - DOZING!

YOUR DRINK, SIR.



SO THEY HOPE TO CATCH ME WHILE I SLEEP. VERY WELL, I SHALL NOT SLEEP!



THAT NIGHT IN MR TOMORROW'S HOTEL ROOM IN AMERICA...

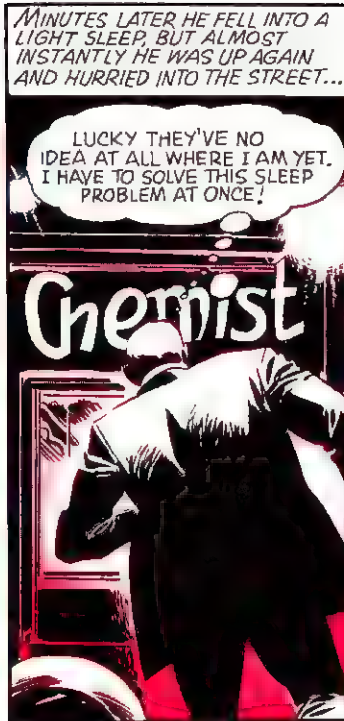
A BOMB CONSTRUCTED ON LINES QUITE UNKNOWN TO THIS BACKWARD AGE. SMALL, BUT QUITE ENOUGH TO BLOW THEM AND THEIR HEAD-QUARTERS TO PIECES!



BAH! THAT JOURNEY HAS TIRED ME. I'D BETTER LEAVE THIS TILL I'M FRESH.



A LITTLE REST— BUT **NO** SLEEP!



MINUTES LATER HE FELL INTO A LIGHT SLEEP, BUT ALMOST INSTANTLY HE WAS UP AGAIN AND HURRIED INTO THE STREET...

LUCKY THEY'VE NO IDEA AT ALL WHERE I AM YET. I HAVE TO SOLVE THIS SLEEP PROBLEM AT ONCE!



I'VE AN IMPORTANT PROJECT TO FINISH. CAN'T AFFORD TO SLEEP...

THESE PILLS WILL HELP, SIR. BUT ONLY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD. YOU SEE, THE HUMAN BODY **NEEDS** SLEEP AND, AFTER A WHILE YOU'LL FIND —

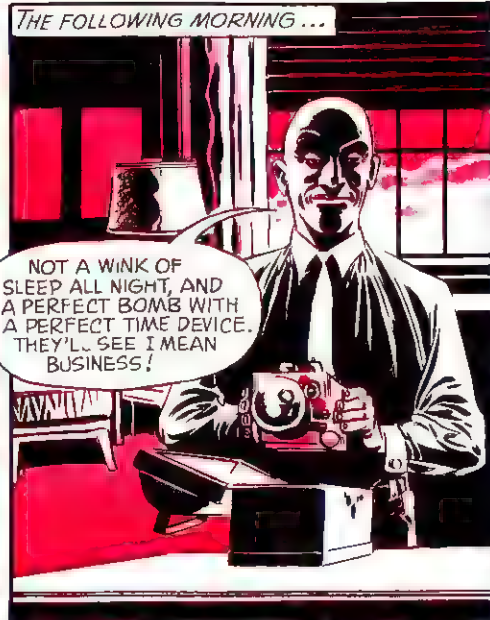


DON'T LECTURE ME, DOLT! THERE'S THE MONEY!

BUT, SIR, YOU NEED A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.



PRESCRIPTION PHOOEY! THERE! **NOW** LET'S SEE IF MY ENEMIES CAN CATCH ME NAPPING!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING ...

NOT A WINK OF SLEEP ALL NIGHT, AND A PERFECT BOMB WITH A PERFECT TIME DEVICE. THEY'LL SEE I MEAN BUSINESS!



LATER, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT SENATES REASSEMBLED...

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO GIVE WAY TO THREATS. THE MAN CALLED TOMORROW WILL BE FOUND AND DEALT WITH...

SHAME!

YOU'RE PLAYING WITH LIVES!



DOCTOR MANDER AND INSPECTOR FRANK REEVES WERE PRESENT.

ANY TRACE OF HIM YET?

WE KNOW HE'S HERE IN TOWN SOMEWHERE



THAT'S NOT HARD TO GUESS SINCE HE'S GOT TO PLANT A BOMB HERE.

IF HE MEANS IT, HE'S GOT TO COME HERE TO THIS BUILDING. WE'LL LOCATE HIM...

OUTSIDE, NEAR ANOTHER PART OF THE BUILDING...



AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO CHECK THOSE GUYS?

YOU DON'T THINK ONE OF **THEM'S** THIS NUT MR TOMORROW? THEY ARE JUST JANITORS - CLEANERS - I KNOW 'EM ALL.

BUT...

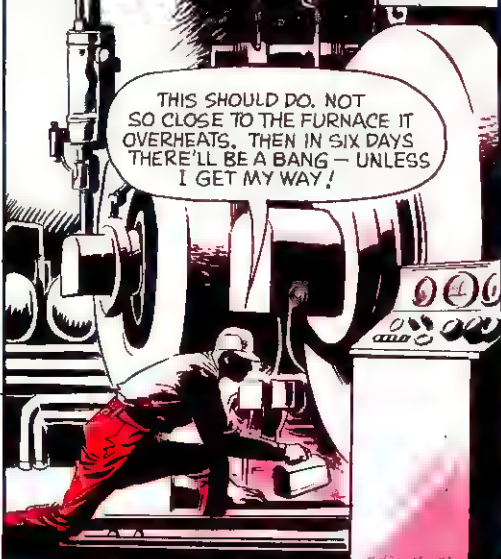
HEY - YOU'RE NEW, AIN'T YOU, BUD?

JUST TAKING OVER FROM AL. WANTED A DAY OFF FOR HIS KID'S BIRTHDAY.

THIS WAY TO CENTRAL HEATING PLANT



MR TOMORROW EVENTUALLY FOUND HIMSELF ALONE...



THIS SHOULD DO. NOT SO CLOSE TO THE FURNACE IT OVERHEATS. THEN IN SIX DAYS THERE'LL BE A BANG - UNLESS I GET MY WAY!

LATER THAT DAY...



JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE BOMB'S READY AND THERE'S NO POINT LOOKING FOR IT. ANYWAY, IT'S A MECHANISM YOUR TWENTIETH CENTURY MINDS WON'T FATHOM.

LATER, OUTSIDE THE U.N.O. BUILDING...



I HEAR THE PRESIDENT GOT A MESSAGE TO SAY THE BOMB'S IN PLACE.

THAT'S RIGHT, PHILIP. MY MEN ARE SEARCHING FOR IT NOW.

IT'S HIM YOU'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR. ONCE WE KNOW HIS WHEREABOUTS...



EVER SEEN THESE? STAY-AWAKE PILLS. A GUY ANSWERING MR TOMORROW'S DESCRIPTION RUSHED OFF WITH SOME FROM A CHEMIST EARLY THIS MORNING...



RIGHT - TAKE ME TO THIS CHEMIST...

WHAT'S THE USE? MR TOMORROW WON'T FALL ASLEEP NOW, WILL HE?

A FEW MILES AWAY, MR TOMORROW WAS ALREADY ANTICIPATING SUCCESS...



WITHIN A WEEK ALL THIS WILL BE MINE! AND I'LL LIVE MORE COMFORTABLY THAN I EVER COULD IN MY OWN TIME!

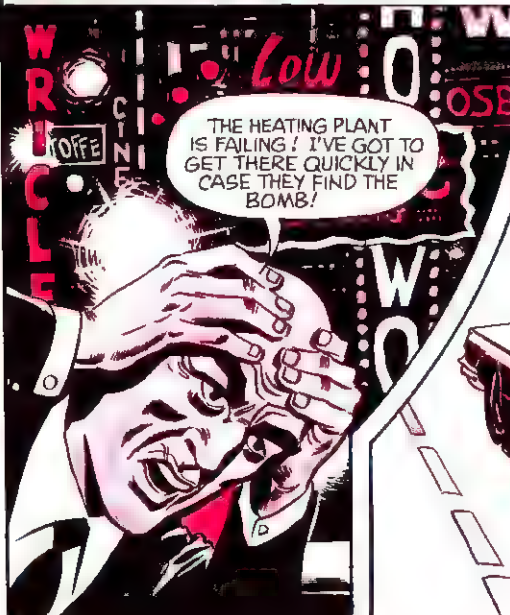
BUT IN THE CENTRAL HEATING CONTROL ROOM OF THE U.N.O. BUILDING...



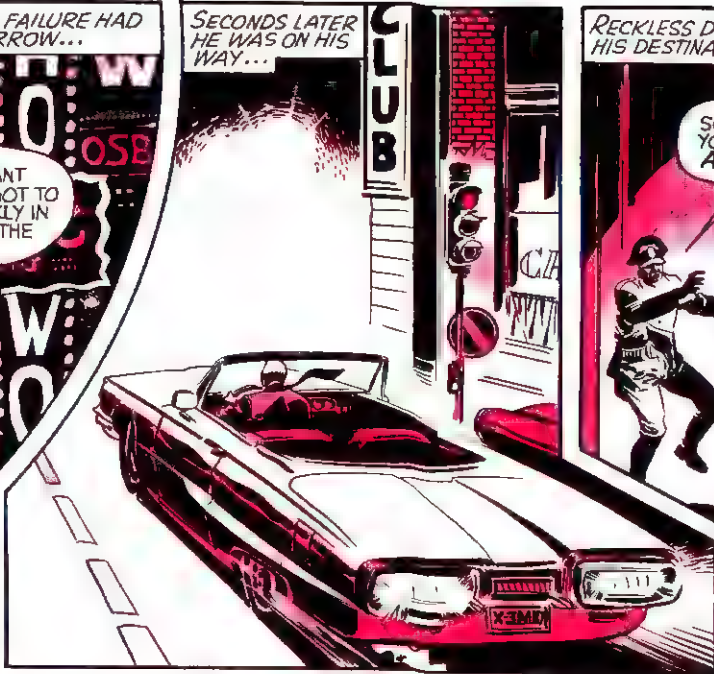
THERE'S A FUEL BLOCKAGE IN CIRCUIT FOUR. BETTER DOUSE FURNACE NUMBER FIVE.

I'LL SEND SOMEONE DOWN RIGHT AWAY.

THE POSSIBILITY OF A MECHANICAL FAILURE HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED BY MR TOMORROW...



SECONDS LATER HE WAS ON HIS WAY...



RECKLESS DRIVING GOT HIM TO HIS DESTINATION, BUT...



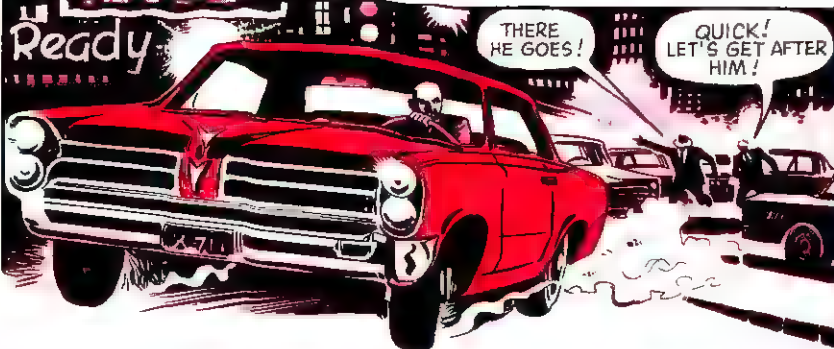
AS WORKMEN CHECKED THE FAULTY FURNACE...



AN EMERGENCY CALL WENT OUT TO INTERPOL, AND SOON...



Reedy



THERE HE GOES!

QUICK!
LET'S GET AFTER HIM!

MOMENTS LATER...

WE HAVEN'T LOST HIM. I CAN STILL SEE HIS LIGHTS!

HE'S TURNING OFF FOR THE AIRPORT. A SMALL PRIVATE FIELD NEAR HERE.



THE AIRFIELD WAS UNGUARDED...



THERE HE IS. TRY AND STOP HIM!

HAH! THEY'LL NOT TAKE ME NOW!

THE CAR SLEWED ROUND AS THE PLANE ENGINE ROARED INTO LIFE. BUT THEY WERE SECONDS TOO LATE...



THAT WAS CLOSE!

I CAN FLY!
COME ON, LET'S GET ANOTHER PLANE!

BUT, MINUTES LATER...



LOOKS LIKE WE'VE LOST HIM!

I'M NOT SO SURE. DAWN'S BREAKING AND - YES, THERE HE IS NOW!

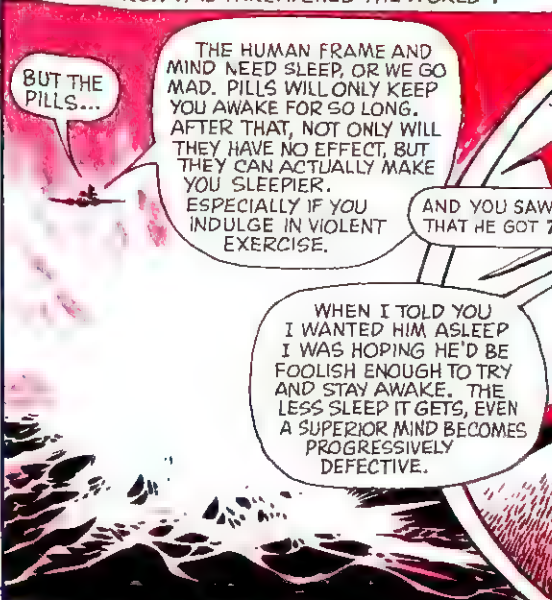


STILL THERE! IF - IF ONLY IT WEREN'T SO DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE...

WHY DO THESE SIMPLE CONTROLS SEEM SO COMPLEX? AH - WHY DO I YAWN? I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP. I CAN'T! WHERE ARE THE PILLS?



SECONDS LATER THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE SEA... THE IMPACT EXPLODED THE BOMB WITH WHICH MR TOMORROW HAD THREATENED THE WORLD!



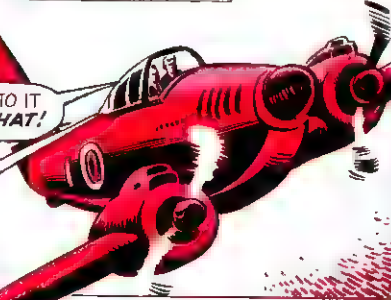
BUT THE PILLS...

THE HUMAN FRAME AND MIND NEED SLEEP, OR WE GO MAD. PILLS WILL ONLY KEEP YOU AWAKE FOR SO LONG. AFTER THAT, NOT ONLY WILL THEY HAVE NO EFFECT, BUT THEY CAN ACTUALLY MAKE YOU SLEEPY. ESPECIALLY IF YOU INDULGE IN VIOLENT EXERCISE.

AND YOU SAW TO IT THAT HE GOT THAT!

WHEN I TOLD YOU I WANTED HIM ASLEEP I WAS HOPING HE'D BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRY AND STAY AWAKE. THE LESS SLEEP IT GETS, EVEN A SUPERIOR MIND BECOMES PROGRESSIVELY DEFECTIVE.

PHILIP MANDER TURNED THE PLANE BACK FOR HOME...



AND SO, IN HIS NEED FOR SLEEP, MR TOMORROW HAD NOT PROVED SUPERIOR TO OUR OWN AGE - AND NOW THE WORLD IS FREE FROM THE TERROR AND FEAR OF MR TOMORROW... AND ABLE ONCE AGAIN TO FIND ITS OWN FUTURE!

BUT THOUGH HE GULPED ALL THE REMAINING PILLS IT WAS NO USE. MR TOMORROW FELL FORWARD... ASLEEP!



HE'S DIVING!

HE'S FALLEN ASLEEP, FRANK!

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED

CHET BLAIR HAD BEEN BORN A SIOUX, BUT HE HAD STUDIED LAW AT COLLEGE, GRADUATED AND WAS NOW ABOUT TO START WORKING AT HIS PROFESSION...

FORGET THE PAST, I GUESS. I'M NO LONGER A SIOUX - JUST ANOTHER AMERICAN LAWYER...

THIS IS WHERE I BELONG NOW - THIS IS WHERE I'VE GOT TO LIVE MY LIFE.

AT A GLANCE, THE TALL, DARK MAN LOOKED UNREMARKABLE, JUST ANOTHER FACE IN THE THOUSANDS THAT THROG THE STREETS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO. YET HE WAS DIFFERENT - A CLOSER LOOK WOULD HAVE SHOWN A CERTAIN PRIDE IN HIS DARK EYES, A KIND OF LAZY FREEDOM IN THE WAY HE MOVED...

THE CITY WAS HIS HOME NOW - THOUGH SOMETIMES, IN SPRING, HE WOULD REMEMBER GREEN PLAINS, ROLLING HILLS, WINDING RIVERS UNDER A WIDE SKY...

HE LEFT THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE AND SLIPPED THROUGH AN ALLEY - WHEN...

THERE HE IS! STRAIGHT AHEAD!

BULLETS SPAT VICIOUSLY...

GET 'IM, BRAD! BLAST HIM THROUGH!

VIOLENCE ERUPTED SAVAGELY IN THE AFTERNOON... A SUDDEN, STARTLING TRANSFORMATION...

AAGGHH...

ARRGGHHH...

THE DRAMA ENDED AS QUICKLY AND FIERCELY AS IT HAD BEGUN. CHET STARED - HIS EYES HARD...



CHET ACTED INSTINCTIVELY. A WRONG HAD BEEN DONE - IT WAS EVERY MAN'S DUTY TO PUT IT RIGHT...



THERE WAS FEAR IN THE MAN'S EYES AND CHET HESITATED - ONLY FOR A MOMENT... BUT IT WAS ENOUGH...



HE SLUMPED-NUMBED...



SUDDENLY THERE WAS A NEW SOUND - THE HARSH WHINE OF A POLICE SIREN...



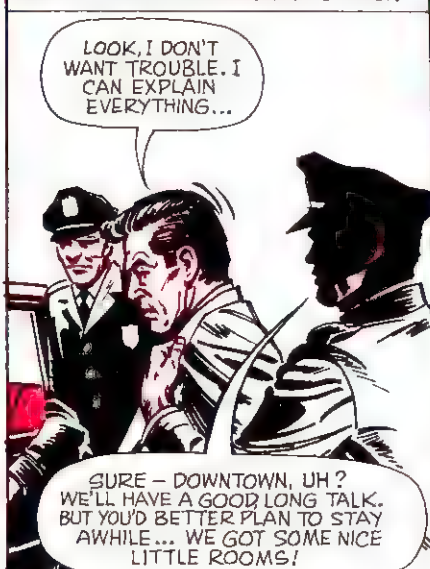
BUT...



HE WAS GRABBED AND SEARCHED...



HOSTILE EYES EXAMINED HIM COLDLY.



SUDDENLY CHET KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO. IT WAS A TIME FOR ACTION. HE MOVED TO THE CAR - AND...





HE VAULTED THE CAR AND RAN, WEAVING AND DUCKING AS GUN-FIRE SOUNDED...

HOLD IT!



CHET HAD NO PLAN - EXCEPT ESCAPE. IT WAS A SIMPLE, DIRECT ACT...

GET TO APARTMENT...
GET MY STUFF...
AND VANISH...



BY THE TIME HE REACHED HIS APARTMENT, HIS MIND WAS WORKING COOLLY...

NOT ENOUGH TO RUN - I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP. I'VE GOT TO FIND THAT MAN. THE ONE WHO CAN CLEAR ME...



IT WOULD NOT BE EASY, BUT HE HAD THE BLOOD OF A RACE OF MIGHTY HUNTERS IN HIS VEINS...

THE SIOUX TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS - PATIENCE AND CUNNING...



HE WOULD HUNT HIS QUARRY THE SIOUX WAY. HE THOUGHT OF THE MAN... REMEMBERING EVERY DETAIL...

THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT. HE SMELT OF THE SEA... AND OIL... HE COULD SPEND TIME AT THE DOCKS...



IT WAS A START, A BEGINNING. THAT NIGHT THE MAN KNOWN AS CHET BLAIR VANISHED - AND ANOTHER MAN TOOK HIS PLACE...

OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE... AND I WILL FIND HIM... I WILL FACE HIM AGAIN...



THE NIGHT WAS HIS FRIEND. BY DAY HE HID - AND USED THE NIGHT TO PROWL THE CITY...



BUT WHILE HE HUNTED, HE WAS ALSO BEING HUNTED...

POLICE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR CHET BLAIR, WANTED FOR QUESTIONING IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF TWO MEN THREE DAYS AGO. THE CITY FORCE IS ON CONSTANT ALERT FOR THIS MAN...



A WEEK PASSED - AND THEN CAME THE MOMENT OF TRUTH... THE REWARD OF PATIENCE AND VIGILANCE...

AAHH... THAT IS MY QUARRY...

JOE'S PLACE

THE MAN SAUNTERED AWAY—
WITHOUT FEAR... UNAWARE OF
THE DARK SHADOW BEHIND HIM.

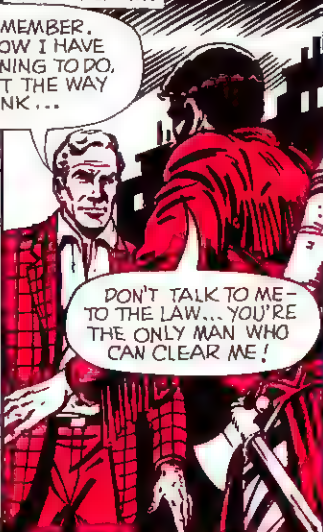


I HAVE COME FOR
YOU! THIS TIME THERE
WILL BE NO ESCAPE...



YEAH, I REMEMBER.
LISTEN, I KNOW I HAVE
SOME EXPLAINING TO DO,
BUT IT'S NOT THE WAY
YOU THINK...

RECOGNITION DAWNED IN THE
MAN'S EYES — AND WITH IT
CAME FEAR...



DON'T TALK TO ME—
TO THE LAW... YOU'RE
THE ONLY MAN WHO
CAN CLEAR ME!

WHAT?
HEY, WHAT IS
THIS — SOME KIND
OF JOKE?

SUDDENLY...



THE COPS — YOU
BETTER RUN, FRIEND!
THEY'VE GOT NOTHING
ON ME... BUT YOU...

VOICES SOUNDED LOUDLY — AND THE INDIAN
KNEW HE HAD NO CHOICE... THE TIME WAS
NOT RIGHT...



HOLD IT!
JUST STAY
PUT!

WE WILL
MEET AGAIN, FRIEND,
REMEMBER THAT...

HE TURNED
AND RAN...
BUT...

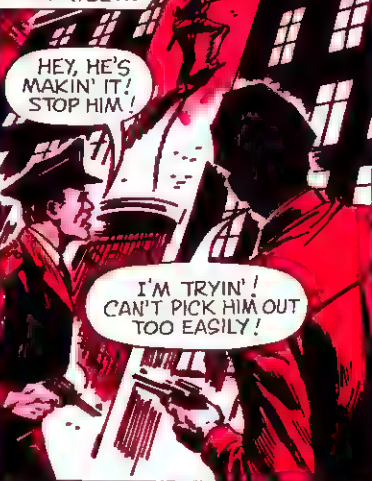


NO POINT IN
RUNNIN'! THERE'S
NO WAY OUT...

THERE **WAS** A WAY — FOR A CERTAIN
KIND OF MAN. HE TOSSED A ROPE
NOOSE TO THE TOP OF THE BUILDING...



HE MOVED QUICKLY,
EASILY — FOR VITAL
SECONDS THE
WATCHERS WERE
TAKEN BY
SURPRISE...



HEY, HE'S
MAKIN' IT!
STOP HIM!

I'M TRYIN'!
CAN'T PICK HIM OUT
TOO EASILY!

THE ROOFTOPS HAD BECOME HIS
TERRITORY — ONCE THERE, HE WAS FREE...



HE HAD LOST THE QUARRY - BUT HIS HUNTER'S MIND WAS NOT DISPLEASED.



THE NEXT DAY HE MADE A TELEPHONE CALL...



HIS PLAN WAS SUCCESSFUL! THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS, AND WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS CHET STARTED HIS HUNT AGAIN...



HE WAS PATIENT, SENSING THAT THE END WAS NEAR... AND, TWO HOURS LATER...



THIS TIME HE WOULD BE CERTAIN - THERE WOULD BE NO INTERRUPTIONS...



SUDDENLY HIS QUARRY BEGAN TO BEHAVE CAUTIOUSLY, NERVOUSLY...



THEN IT BECAME CLEAR...



AS THE MAN DISAPPEARED THE INDIAN MOVED CLOSER...



THE TIME HAD COME - IT WAS THE MOMENT...



THE INDIAN LEAPED — HIS SHOULDER
CAUGHT THE MAN'S MIDDLE...

OOOFFF...



THEY GRAPPLED, TWISTING,
PUSHING, KICKING...



IT WAS A GRIM, BITTER
STRUGGLE —

LISTEN,
YOU CRAZY...

NO TALK —
NOT THIS
TIME...



AT LAST, CHET WON THE
ADVANTAGE... AND...

NOW, YOU WILL DO AS
I SAY... YOU WILL TELL
THE POLICE...

OKAY, OKAY...
I'LL TELL THE POLICE...
YOU WIN...



YOU DESERVE SOME
ANSWERS... I WAS GOING TO
GIVE YOU A HAND — BUT THERE
WAS SOMETHING...

NO MORE
TRICKS...



THE MAN GRINNED — AND
SUDDENLY LIGHT FILLED
THE WAREHOUSE...

DOWN —
HIDE! —
FAST!



BEFORE THE INDIAN COULD
REACT...

OKAY, MALONE!
WE KNOW YOU'RE
INSIDE! WE'RE
GONNA GET YOU...

LISTEN, FRIEND
YOU BETTER TAKE OFF...
THIS IS MY BUSINESS...



LEAVE YOU
HERE? NOT NOW —
I NEED YOU...

OKAY, COP YOU'VE
HAD A FAIR RUN. NOW
COMES THE TIME FOR
THE PAY-OFF...



CHET STARED — BEWILDERED...

COP?
BUT YOU...

A LONG STORY, PAL —
AND THERE ISN'T TIME TO
TELL IT RIGHT NOW...



A VOLLEY OF SHOTS
SHATTERED THE SILENCE
OF THE NIGHT...

WELL, WHAT
DO YOU PLAN
TO DO ?

I STICK WITH
YOU - ALL THE WAY...
I STILL NEED YOU...

OKAY, COP -
HERE'S YOURS...

HIT THE DIRT,
FRIEND... THEY'RE
PLAYING FOR
KEEPS!

THE INDIAN HAD MADE HIS DECISION -
HIS HAND MOVED, THERE WAS A BLUR
OF STEEL...

ARGGHHH...

GOOD SHOOTING,
INDIAN... YOU HIT
THE JACKPOT!

OKAY, BOYS, BIG
EDDY'S FINISHED!
YOU BETTER GIVE UP
NOW BEFORE YOU
JOIN HIM!

THERE WAS A PAUSE - AND THEN...

OKAY - I AIN'T
CARRYIN' THE CAN...
I DIDN'T WANT A
SHOOTIN' MATCH...

THAT'S SENSIBLE
THINKING - LATE IN
THE DAY BUT IT'S
A START...

WITHIN MINUTES UNIFORMED POLICE
ARRIVED...

WELL, THAT'S THAT.
I OWE YOU A LOT - HEY,
I GUESS THIS IS HISTORY...
ONE BATTLE THE INJUNS
DID WIN... I OWE YOU
A BIG FAVOUR...

YOU COULD
START BY DOING
A LITTLE
EXPLAINING...

I'M WITH THE F.B.I. - UNDERCOVER
WORK. I WAS IN THIS MOB - THEN I WAS
RUMBLIED BY THE MEN WHO TRIED TO
GET ME, I ESCAPED BUT COULDN'T STOP
AND GET YOU OFF THE HOOK. I HAD TO
KEEP MY COVER UNTIL THE JOB
WAS FINISHED.

BUT WHAT ABOUT
NOW ? I'M STILL WANTED,
I SUPPOSE...

NO, YOU'RE OKAY - WASHINGTON
SENT THE WORD DOWN. YOU KNOW,
I LIKE YOUR STYLE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
IN MY KIND OF WORK...

NOT ME - I'M A
LAWYER... I LIKE THE
QUIET LIFE...



SO CHET BLAIR MERGED WITH THE
CITY - JUST ANOTHER FACE IN A SEA
OF FACES. EXCEPT THAT THERE WAS
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM, A KIND OF
PRIDE, A SORT OF COURAGE THAT
WAS HIS BY RIGHT... AS A GIFT FROM
HIS PEOPLE, THE SIOUX.

THUNDER BOOMED AND JAGGED FORKS OF LIGHTNING FLASHED ABOVE THE NEON-LIT STREETS OF SURF CITY, U.S.A.

THIS IS THE WORST STORM I CAN REMEMBER, GLENDA! YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR!

IT SCARES ME, FRED!

ELECTRO

OUT OF TOWN, THE GIANT STORM SPREAD OVER THE CITY'S GIANT GENERATING PLANT...

INSIDE THE PLANT, WORK WENT ON AS USUAL...

BETTER CHECK NUMBER SEVENTEEN, EDDIE!

SURE, BOSS! SAY, THIS STORM IS A REAL HUM-DINGER!

SUDDENLY, AN EARTH-SHATTERING THUNDERCRACK SPLIT THE AIR, AND A MASSIVE LIGHTNING BOLT STRUCK THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING!

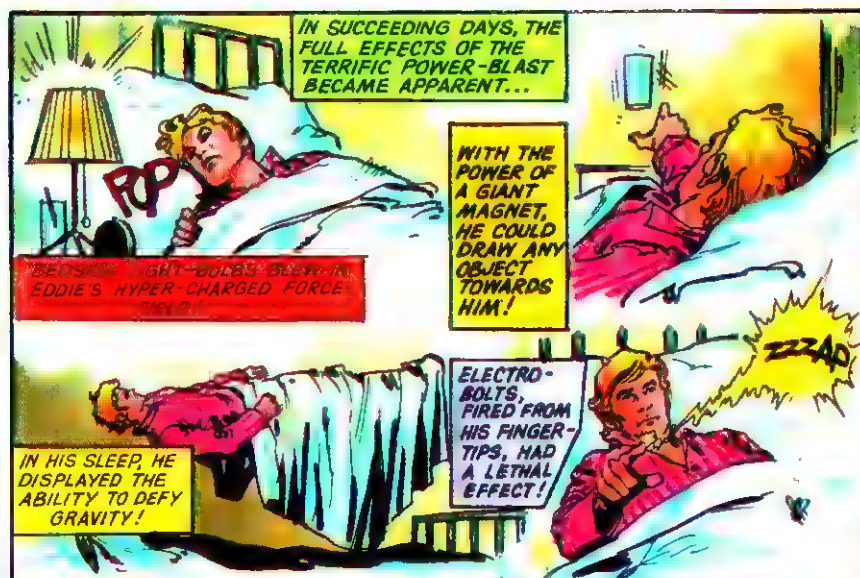
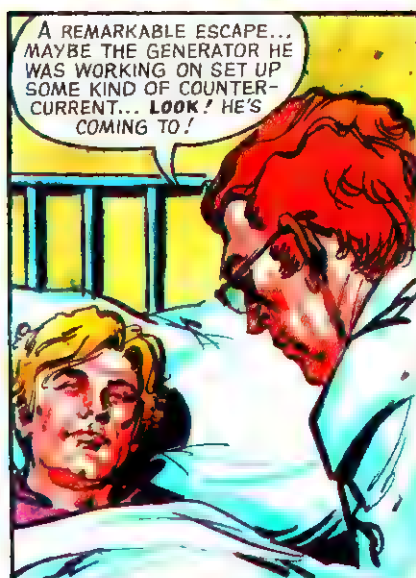
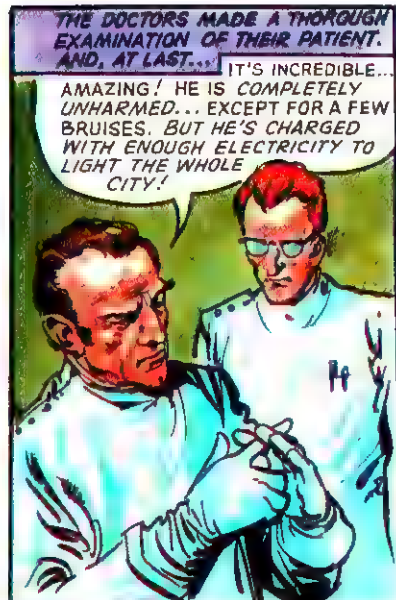
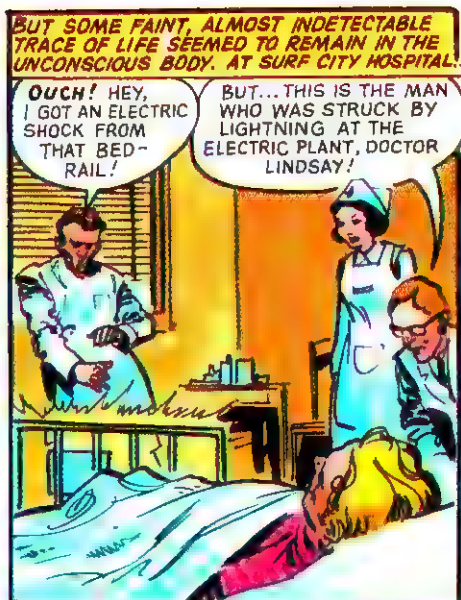
KKKKKRRR AAAKKK!

THE ENORMOUS VOLTAGE COURSED DOWN INTO THE MAIN MACHINE ROOM...

GET OFF THE TURBINES, YOU GUYS! JUMP!

NUMBER SEVENTEEN TOOK THE FULL CHARGE! THE MAN WORKING ON THE PLATFORM ABOVE IT SEEMED TO GLOW WITH AN EERIE RADIANCE!

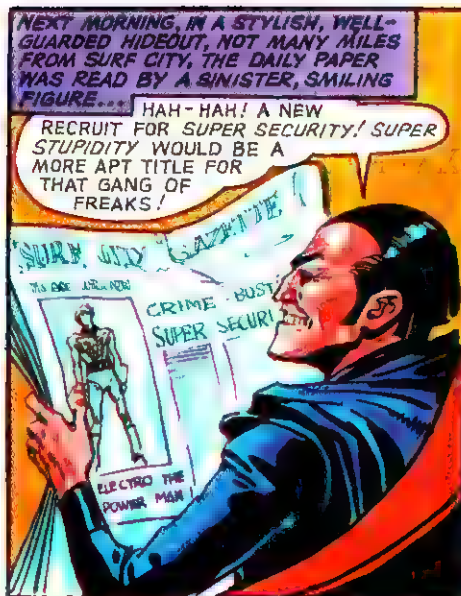
AAAAA-
RAGHH!





OKAY. IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY... I'LL JOIN THE CLUB, BOSSMAN!

GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, EDDIE. THERE'S YOUR UNIFORM... AND FROM NOW ON—YOU'LL BE KNOWN AS **ELECTRO—THE POWER MAN!**



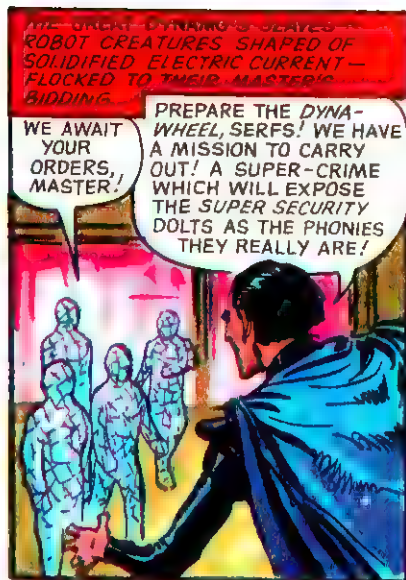
NEXT MORNING, IN A STYLISH, WELL-GUARDED HIDEOUT, NOT MANY MILES FROM SURF CITY, THE DAILY PAPER WAS READ BY A SINISTER, SMILING FIGURE....

HAH-HAH! A NEW RECRUIT FOR SUPER SECURITY! SUPER STUPIDITY WOULD BE A MORE APT TITLE FOR THAT GANG OF FREAKS!



SOON I, THE GREAT DYNAMO, WILL PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT THIS UPSTART ELECTRO HAS ABOUT AS MUCH POWER AS A POCKET-TORCH BATTERY!

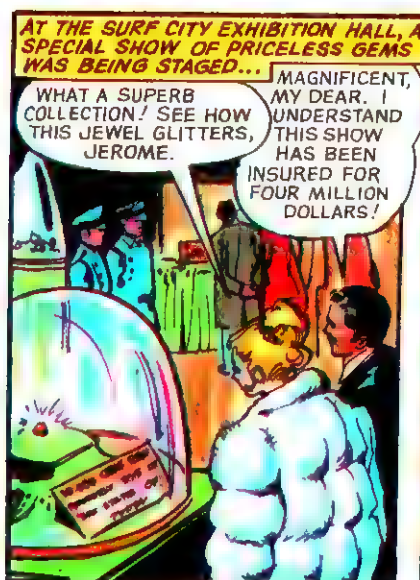
DYNAMEN! COME... I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES!



THE GREAT DYNAMO'S SEVES—ROBOT CREATURES SHAPED OF SOLIDIFIED ELECTRIC CURRENT—FLOCKED TO THEIR MASTER'S BIDDING.

WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS, MASTER!

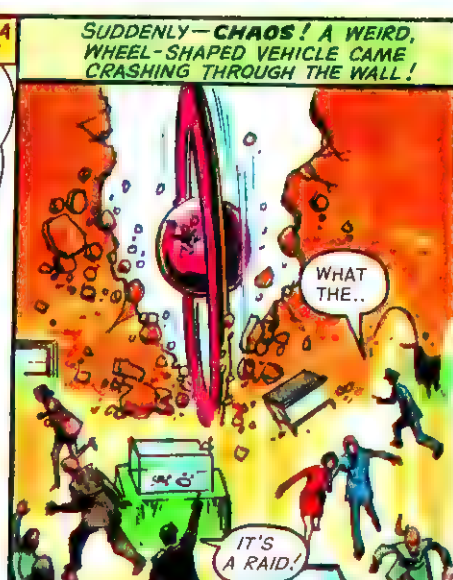
PREPARE THE DYNA-WHEEL, SERFS! WE HAVE A MISSION TO CARRY OUT! A SUPER-CRIME WHICH WILL EXPOSE THE SUPER SECURITY DOLTS AS THE PHONIES THEY REALLY ARE!



AT THE SURF CITY EXHIBITION HALL, A SPECIAL SHOW OF PRICELESS GEMS WAS BEING STAGED...

WHAT A SUPERB COLLECTION! SEE HOW THIS JEWEL GLITTERS, JEROME.

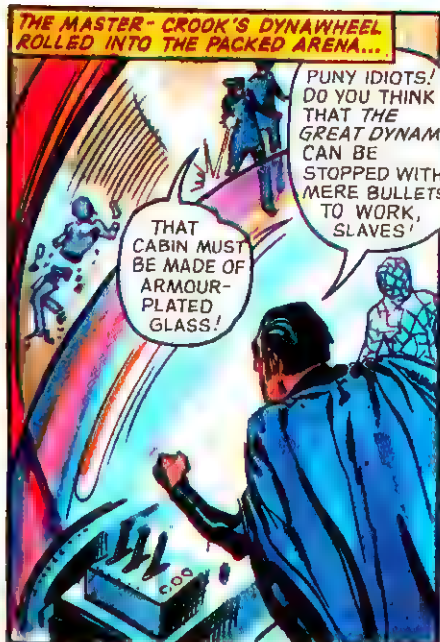
MAGNIFICENT, MY DEAR. I UNDERSTAND THIS SHOW HAS BEEN INSURED FOR FOUR MILLION DOLLARS!



SUDDENLY—CHAOS! A WEIRD, WHEEL-SHAPED VEHICLE CAME CRASHING THROUGH THE WALL!

WHAT THE..

IT'S A RAID!



THE MASTER-CROOK'S DYNAWHEEL ROLLED INTO THE PACKED ARENA...

PUNY IDIOTS! DO YOU THINK THAT THE GREAT DYNAMO CAN BE STOPPED WITH MERE BULLETS? TO WORK, SLAVES!

THAT CABIN MUST BE MADE OF ARMOUR-PLATED GLASS!



SECONDS LATER, THE DYNAMEN HAD OVERPOWERED THE SECURITY GUARDS...

IT IS USELESS TO RESIST. WE DYNAMEN CAN DEFEAT ANY HUMAN...



CRINGE, CRINGE, YOU WEAKLINGS! WITNESS THE TRIUMPH OF THE GREAT DYNAMO! PRICELESS RUBIES, EMERALDS, DIAMONDS...AND YOU ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT ME TAKING THEM ALL!

THE GREAT DYNAMO'S SLAVES BEGAN LOADING THE LOOT ABOARD...

THIS GREAT DYNAMO GUY IS AS NUTTY AS A FRUIT-CAKE!

SURE...IF YOU CALL FOUR MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LOOT NUTTY!

BUT, AT THE LOCAL HEAD-QUARTERS OF SUPER SECURITY, EVER-VIGILANT DUTY-MEN WERE ALERT TO THE DANGER!

RED ALERT! THERE'S A RAID ON THE JEWEL EXHIBITION! SUPER SECURITY AGENT NEEDED... TOP PRIORITY!

MINIMAN'S JUST CAME BACK FROM A MISSION. FLAME-MAN'S TIED UP... I'LL SEND ELECTRO!

FROM HIS NEW PENTHOUSE SUITE ATOP SURF CITY'S TALLEST APARTMENT BLOCK, ELECTRO SPOTTED THE SIGNAL CALLING HIM TO DUTY...

ACTION AT LAST! AND THE SIGNAL CODE READS: HOLD-UP...AT EXHIBITION... HALL...

WITH CONSTANT PRACTICE, ELECTRO HAD LEARNED TO CONTROL HIS ANTI-GRAVITY POWERS...

INTO BATTLE!

REACHING THE EXHIBITION HALL, HE TOOK THE FASTEST WAY IN—THROUGH THE GLASS ROOF!

IT'S ELECTRO! HE'LL PUT PAID TO THESE CROOKS!

GREETINGS, SUPER-SAP! YOU'RE TOO LATE... I HAVE THE TREASURE—AND NO ONE'S GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME NOW!

ELECTRO-BOLTS FROM THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S FINGER-TIPS PUT TWO DYNAMEN OUT OF ACTION IN A SPLIT-SECOND!

THAT'S BLOWN YOUR FUSES, YOU CREEPS!

AND AS TWO MORE DYNAMEN TURNED TOWARDS HIM, ELECTRO USED HIS MAGNETIC POWERS...

IT'S TIME YOU TWO GOT TOGETHER!

THAT FOOL IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT! GET THE DYNACRAFT IN MOTION AND LET'S BE GONE!

AS THE DYNAWHEEL ROLLED OFF...

I'M AFTER YOU, CROOK!

USE THE DYNACANNON! STOP THAT MENACE FROM TRAILING US!

NEXT MOMENT...

I OBEY, MASTER!

ZZZOOOSSSS HHHH!

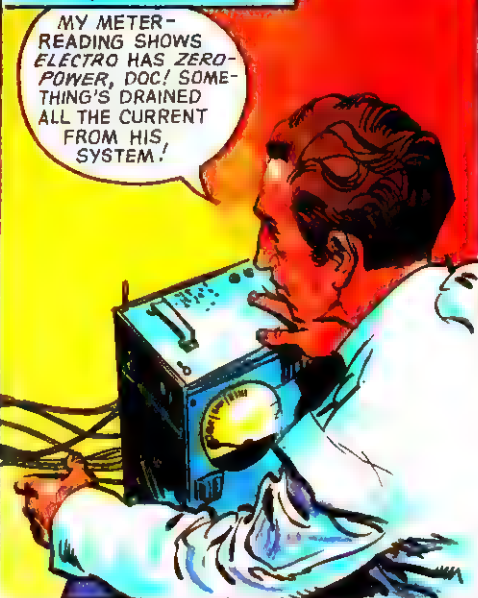
IT WAS A DIRECT HIT!



DOCTOR LINDSAY WAS CALLED TO THE SCENE...



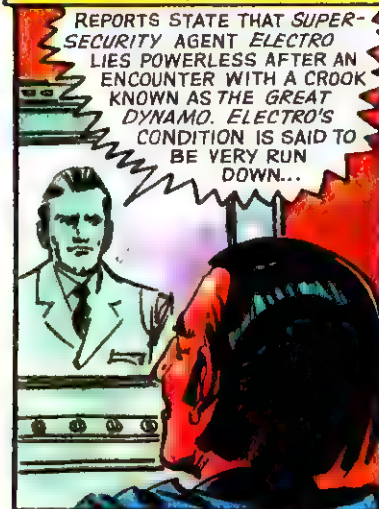
AN ELECTRONICS EXPERT WAS EQUALLY GLOOMY...



TAKE HIM TO HOSPITAL... BUT MY CONSIDERED OPINION IS THAT ELECTRO IS A SPENT FORCE!



TV NEWSCASTS THAT EVENING CARRIED A FULL REPORT. THE GREAT DYNAMO WATCHED, IN HIS HIDEOUT...



SO PERISH ALL WHO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF THE GREAT DYNAMO! SUCH A PITY I CANNOT FIND A WORTHY OPPONENT! ALL WHO TRY TO OUTWIT ME ARE BOOBS, NITWITS AND BUFF-ONS!



BEFORE THE CRIME-FIGHTERS OF THIS CITY HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER FROM OUR LAST RAID, WE WILL STRIKE AGAIN—THIS TIME AT THE FORT VOX GOLD VAULT!



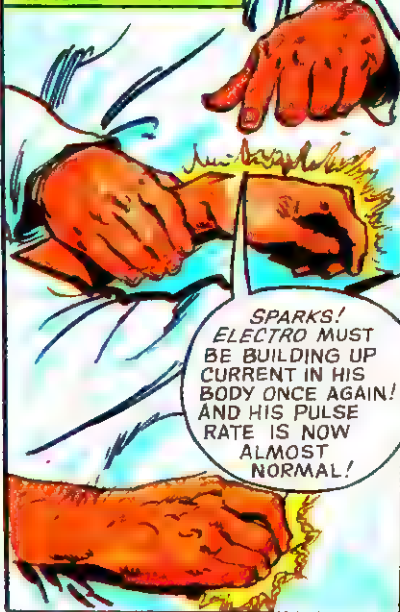
THE GREAT DYNAMO'S VOICE CRACKED LIKE A WHIPLASH!



MEANWHILE, AT THE HOSPITAL, A CLOSE WATCH WAS BEING KEPT ON THE MOTIONLESS FORM OF ELECTRO...

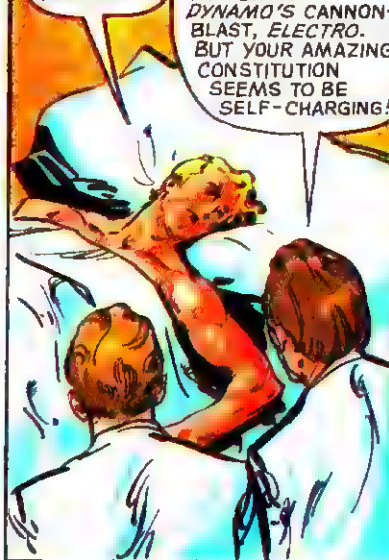


MINUTES LATER...



SPARKS!
ELECTRO MUST
BE BUILDING UP
CURRENT IN HIS
BODY ONCE AGAIN!
AND HIS PULSE
RATE IS NOW
ALMOST
NORMAL!

WHAT...
WHAT
HAPPENED?



YOUR POWER-
CHARGE WAS
DRAINED AWAY BY
THE GREAT
DYNAMO'S CANNON-
BLAST, ELECTRO.
BUT YOUR AMAZING
CONSTITUTION
SEEMS TO BE
SELF-CHARGING!

**AT THE GREAT STEEL AND CONCRETE
BLOCKHOUSE OF FORT VOX.**



JUMPIN'
JEHOSAPHAT!
WHAT'S
THAT?

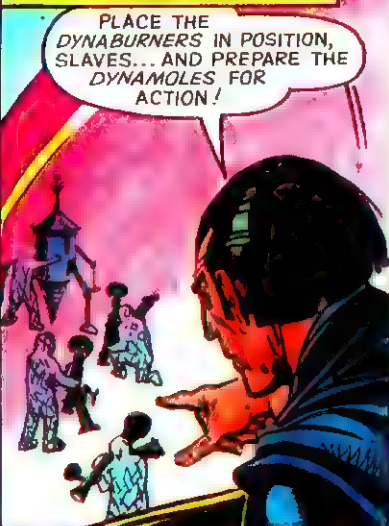
IT'S SOME CRAZY
GREAT WHEEL! AND
IT'S KNOCKING DOWN
THOSE TREES LIKE
MATCHSTICKS! GET
READY— THIS MEANS
TROUBLE!

THE DYNAMO WHEEL REVERSED THE
ROTATED ENDS, AND THE
MASTER CANNON'S SLAVES MADE
READY FOR ACTION.



OUR SHELLS ARE JUST
PASSING THROUGH THOSE
FREAKY THINGS!

**THE GREAT DYNAMO HAD
PLANNED WELL...**



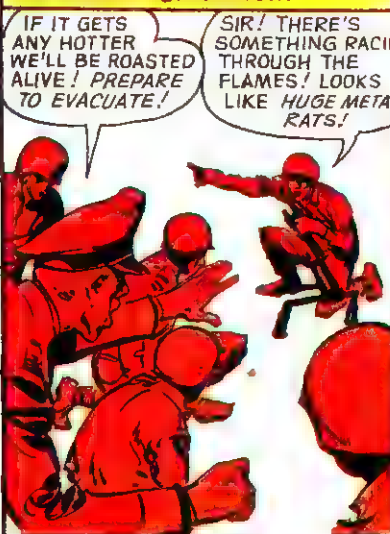
PLACE THE
DYNABURNERS IN POSITION,
SLAVES... AND PREPARE THE
DYNAMOLES FOR
ACTION!

**INSTANTLY, JETS OF SUPERCHARGED
FLAME SPOUTED FROM THE DYNABURNERS AND LASHED THE WALLS OF
THE BLOCKHOUSE!**



MY
DYNABURNERS
SHOOT FLAME SO
HOT THEY WILL BURN
AWAY THE ENTIRE FORT—
LEAVING THE GOLD
VAULTS EXPOSED
BELOW!

**INSIDE THE BLOCKHOUSE, THE HEAT
WAS UNBEARABLE, LEAVING THE
DEFENDERS POWERLESS...**



IF IT GETS
ANY HOTTER
WE'LL BE ROASTED
ALIVE! PREPARE
TO EVACUATE!

SIR! THERE'S
SOMETHING RACING
THROUGH THE
FLAMES! LOOKS
LIKE HUGE METAL
RATS!

**THE 'RATS' WERE ANOTHER OF
THE GREAT DYNAMO'S INVENTIONS—
DYNAMOLES!**



ONWARDS,
MY PETS! CHEW
AWAY THE WALLS WITH
YOUR METAL JAWS...
I WILL FOLLOW
YOU!

**SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR SHAPE
APPEARED IN THE SKY!**



ELECTRO!
THE MASTER
MUST BE
WARNED!

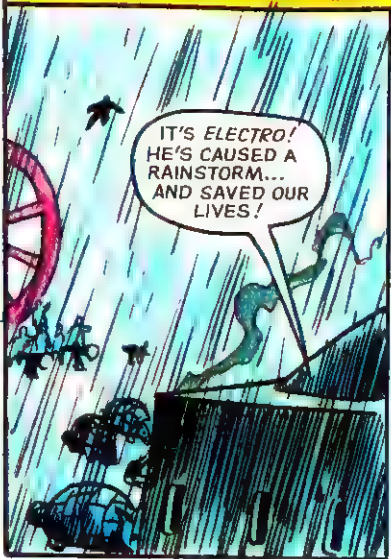
ELECTRO, NOW COMPLETELY RECOVERED, SIZED UP THE SITUATION IN A GLANCE. AN ELECTRIC CHARGE SHOT FROM HIS FINGER...

THIS MAY UPSET SURF CITY'S WEATHER FORECASTS... BUT A CRIME-SMASHING OPERATION TAKES PRIORITY OVER SUN-SHINE!



WITHIN AN INSTANT, THE POWER MAN'S SUPER ENERGY HAD CAUSED A TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR—SUFFICIENT TO EXTINGUISH THE DYNABURNERS!

IT'S ELECTRO! HE'S CAUSED A RAINSTORM... AND SAVED OUR LIVES!



BUT, THE GREAT DYNAMO WAS ALREADY INSIDE THE VAULTS...

USE YOUR MEGALIFT RAYS TO CARRY AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, SERFS! WHEN SUPER SECURITY LEARN ABOUT THIS LITTLE CAPER, WILL THEIR FACES BE RED!



BATTLING AGAINST THE DYNAMEN OUTSIDE, ELECTRO ONLY SPOTTED THE ESCAPING DYNAMO AS HE PREPARED TO LEAVE...

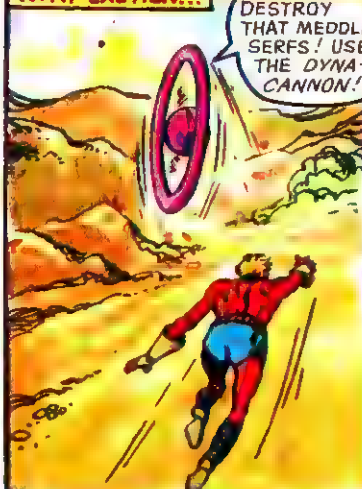
DYNAMO! SO HE'S GOT SOME OF THE GOLD!

TOO BAD, SUCKER! YOU'RE LATE AGAIN... YOU HAVE TO GET UP PRETTY EARLY IN THE MORNING TO CATCH THE GREAT DYNAMO!



RECALLING THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF THE CROOK'S DYNA-CANNON, ELECTRO PURSUED WITH CAUTION...

DESTROY THAT MEDDLER, SERFS! USE THE DYNA-CANNON!



THE POWER MAN WEAVER AND DODGED TO AVOID THE ENERGY-SHOTS...

YOUR DYNAMEN COULD DO WITH A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE, DYNAMO!

HIT HIM! HIT HIM, YOU ELECTRONIC APES!



BUT, WHEN ELECTRO REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE CHASE, DYNAMO PLAYED HIS TRUMP CARD... THE DYNAWHEEL FLIPPED ON ITS SIDE—AND ZOOMED OFF!

YOU WON'T LEAVE US, ELECTRO... SO WE'LL LEAVE YOU! BYE-BYE!

DRAT IT! I'LL NEVER KEEP UP WITH THAT! DYNAMO'S ELUDED ME AGAIN!



THE HEAD OF SUPER SECURITY WAS NOT PLEASED WITH ELECTRO...

YOU'VE FAILED, ELECTRO... AND SUPER SECURITY HAS NO ROOM FOR FAILURES! I WISH I'D GIVEN THE JOB TO MINIMAN OR IRON DOG... THEY'D HAVE COPPED DYNAMO!

JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE, CHIEF... I'VE AN IDEA...



THE GREAT DYNAMO MUST USE IMMENSE AMOUNTS OF ELECTRICITY TO RUN HIS INVENTIONS. HE MUST GENERATE THAT CURRENT SOMEWHERE IN THE TERRITORY... BY WATER-POWERED TURBINES OR SOMETHING OF THAT KIND...

GOOD THINKING... GO ON...



THIS IS JUST SUCH A LIKELY SPOT... AN OLD, DISUSED SAWMILL ON THE YOKUM RIVER. WHAT SAY I TAKE A LOOK AT THE PLACE?

OKAY, ELECTRO... BUT THIS TIME—MAKE SURE YOU GRAB THAT CROOK!



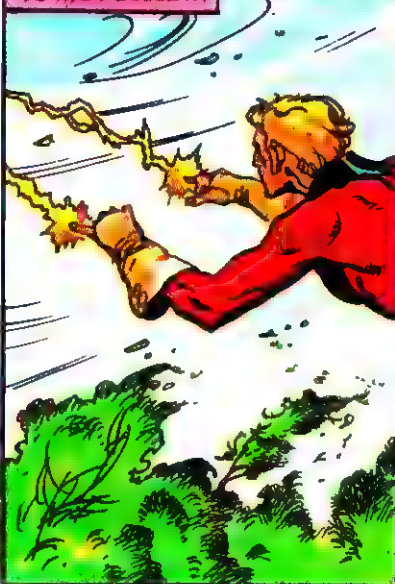
WHEN ELECTRO REACHED THE SAWMILL, HE FOUND HIS SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT!



IT LOOKS EMPTY, BUT...

SO YOU FOUND MY HIDE-OUT, NOSEY PARKER! WELL, LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE MY MINI-DYNAWHEELS!

ONCE AGAIN, ELECTRO'S AMAZING WEATHER CONTROL POWER CAME TO HIS RESCUE...



HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS HOWLED OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND THE LETHAL MINI-DYNAWHEELS WERE BLOWN ALL OVER THE SKY!



THANKS FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY, DYNAMO!

BELOW, THE RIVER HAD BEEN WHIPPED TO TOWERING WAVES BY THE HURRICANE... AND THE SIGHT GAVE ELECTRO AN IDEA...



MAYBE THE RIVER CAN BE USED AS MY CHIEF WEAPON AGAINST THE GREAT DYNAMO.

IT NEEDED MASSIVE ENERGY FOR ELECTRO TO USE HIS MAGNETIC FORCE TO WRENCH AWAY A COMPLETE SECTION OF THE RIVER BANK... BUT THE POWER MAN LIVED UP TO HIS NAME!



WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ELECTRO?

CLEANING OUT YOUR EVIL NEST, DYNAMO... AS YOU'LL SHORTLY FIND OUT!

ELECTRO'S MAMMOTH EARTH-MOVING OPERATION DIVERTED THE SURGING RIVER — STRAIGHT THROUGH DYNAMO'S HIDEOUT!



IT'S BATH-TIME, DYNAMO!

AIEEEE...

AS THE WATER REACHED DYNAMO'S HIGH-VOLTAGE EQUIPMENT, THE WHOLE PLACE BLEW SKY-HIGH!



SPLAT BING.

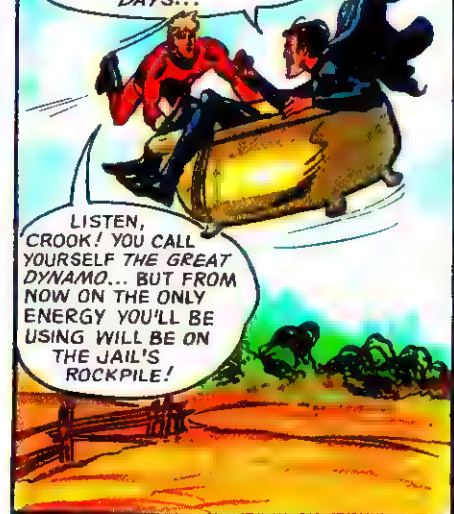
THE DIN OF THE EXPLOSION DIED AWAY. ELECTRO PATROLLED THE FAST-FLOWING RIVER, AND AT LAST...



SAVE ME! SAVE ME, ELECTRO!

I'LL SAVE YOU, DYNAMO... SAVE YOU FOR SURF CITY JAIL!

YOU MAY HAVE WON THIS TIME, ELECTRO... BUT ONE OF THESE DAYS...



LISTEN, CROOK! YOU CALL YOURSELF THE GREAT DYNAMO... BUT FROM NOW ON THE ONLY ENERGY YOU'LL BE USING WILL BE ON THE JAIL'S ROCKPILE!

THE YEAR— 1975.
THE SPRAWLING EXPANSE
OF ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE
KNOWN AS BLACKMOOR
DENE WAS SCARRED BY
A CLUSTER OF STRANGE
BUILDINGS, HEMMED IN
BY BLAZING LIGHTS AND
BARBED-WIRE FENCES...

THE ESPER COMMANDOS

BLACKMOOR ATOMIC
EXPERIMENTAL STATION
— TOP SECURITY —
NO ADMISSION WITHOUT
A PASS.

THE NOISE OF AN ENGINE WOULD HAVE
BEEN DETECTED INSTANTLY... BUT THE
HUGE BOX-KITE THAT FLOATED OVER
THE FORBIDDEN TERRITORY WAS SILENT...

ARMED GUARDS PATROLLED THE
PERIMETER FENCE, ALERT FOR TROUBLE...

THE KITE'S
PASSENGER
WAITED FOR
THE RIGHT
MOMENT,
THEN ...

THE GUARD'S KEY UNLOCKED THE SMALL
GATE... AND MORE SHADOWY FORMS
JOINED THEIR COMRADE ...

WELL DONE, SANDOR.
THESE BRITISH ARE FOOLS...
A MERE CHILD COULD
BREAK INTO ONE OF THEIR
RESEARCH STATIONS!

THE HOUSE
LIES OVER THERE,
EXCELLENCY...

IN A BEDROOM
OF THE MANOR
HOUSE WHICH
STOOD IN THE
GROUNDS,
PROFESSOR OWEN
PENNYBRAVE,
BRITAIN'S TOP
NUCLEAR
PHYSICIST, SAT
READING ...

...NO! NO! NO! HE'S WRONG!
THE CHAP WHO WROTE THIS
BOOK IS A POSITIVE **CLOWN!**

SUDDENLY THE CAT-SUITED INTRUDERS BURST IN...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

I REGRET INCONVENIENCING YOU, PROFESSOR, BUT I MUST INSIST YOU ACCOMPANY US!

OUTSIDE, A HELICOPTER CLATTERED OVER THE STATION AND LANDED CLOSE TO THE HOUSE. GUARDS RUSHED FORWARD, BUT...

DON'T FIRE! THEY'VE GRABBED THE PROFESSOR!

CLIMB ABOARD, MY FRIEND! AND BID FAREWELL TO YOUR NATIVE LAND... YOU WILL NOT SEE IT AGAIN!

NO NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE PROFESSOR'S DISAPPEARANCE, FOR THERE WAS A SECURITY CLAMP-DOWN. BUT BRITISH INTELLIGENCE WAS BUSY...

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE, JAMESON! THESE FELLOWS CALMLY WALKED INTO BLACKMOOR AND PINCHED PENNYBRAVE FROM UNDER OUR VERY NOSES!

THEN WE MUST PINCH HIM BACK FROM THEM, GENERAL... AND I'VE THE VERY MEN FOR THE JOB. TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THIS WINDOW!

OUTSIDE, AN ODD ASSORTMENT WERE UNWILLINGLY MAKING THEIR WAY OVER AN OBSTACLE COURSE...

BUT IF I DROP IN THE PERISHIN' DRINK, I'LL CATCH MY DEATH OF COLD!

I RECKON IT'S A LOAD OF COWSWALLOP, TOO, SLIM... BUT THE GUYS WHO RUN THIS PLACE SAY ALL THIS LEAPIN' ABOUT DOES US GOOD!

THE GENERAL WAS NOT IMPRESSED!

IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE, JAMESON? THOSE MEN OUT THERE ARE USELESS! I WOULDN'T EVEN ASK THEM TO RESCUE A KITTEN UP A TREE!

THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE SPECIAL AGENTS, I AGREE, BUT THEY HAVE-ER-SPECIAL QUALITIES! TAKE ANOTHER LOOK...

RELUCTANTLY, THE GENERAL GAZED OUT OF THE WINDOW...

THE IDEA IS TO TAKE A RUN AT IT, AND SORT OF THROW YOURSELF OVER, BIG JOHN...

YOU MUST BE RAVING MAD! THAT'S TOO EXHAUSTING! I'VE GOT A BETTER WAY OF GETTING OVER WALLS!

IN A SPLIT-SECOND, THE FAT MAN HAD VANISHED!

IN THE SAME SPLIT-SECOND, HE REAPPEARED... ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL!

GREAT THUNDERIN' GUNS! HOW IN THE NAME OF JUPITER DID HE DO THAT? SOME KIND OF TRICK?

SOON THE GENERAL WAS FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE SHABBY BUNCH...

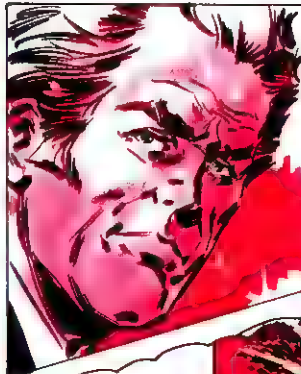
EACH MEMBER OF THIS GROUP HAS A RARE EXTRA-SENSORY POWER. THEY'RE CALLED THE ESPER COMMANDOS—FOR SHORT!

WHAT THE DEUCE DOES THAT MEAN? MIND OVER MATTER SORT OF THING?

"NEXT ONE IS SLIM PARKER. SLIM USED TO RUN A MUSIC-HALL MIND-READING ACT... UNTIL WE DISCOVERED HE REALLY COULD READ MINDS!"

AND I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN' RIGHT NOW, GENERAL... "THAT LITTLE WEED WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A FEATHERWEIGHT PIGMY!" RIGHT?

PAH! YES, CORRECT!



YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, GENERAL. EACH ONE OF THESE MEN IS A SORT OF MENTAL FREAK!

"THIS IS CRAG TAYLOR... A MAN WITH HIS MUSCLES CAN LIFT HEAVY WEIGHTS. BUT WITH THE POWER OF HIS MIND, THIS MAN ONCE LIFTED A CRASHED DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE RIGHT OFF THE TRACK!"



"BIG JOHN SLANSKY... YOU'VE SEEN HIS AMAZING POWERS IN ACTION. HE CAN TRANSPORT HIMSELF FOR MILES IN A SPLIT-SECOND!"

WHILE YOU'RE HERE, GENERAL... I'VE GOT A COMPLAINT. WE ONLY GET FIVE MEALS A DAY IN THIS PLACE. AND THE BEDS ARE TOO HARD!

"GOGGLES GRANT IS ONLY THIRTEEN... BUT HIS POWERS OF PROJECTING PICTURES INTO THE MINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE IS QUITE FANTASTIC..."

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT, GENERAL? GET A LOAD OF THIS, THEN!

A LAMP-POST!

THE GENERAL RUBBED HIS EYES, AS THE OUTLINE OF THE SCHOOLBOY'S FIGURE BLURRED, WOBBLLED AND BECAME...

THIS ISN'T A REAL LAMP-POST, GENERAL... IT'S ME — GOGGLES! I'M MAKING YOU THINK YOU CAN SEE THIS!

JAMESON GOT DOWN TO BRASS TACKS...

ONE OF OUR LEADING NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS, PROFESSOR PENNYBRAVE, WAS RECENTLY KIDNAPPED. OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY HE'S IN THE HANDS OF THE ZORNYANS... HERE, AT CASTLE STARCKE, TO BE PRECISE...



JAMESON TURNED TO A MODEL OF THE CASTLE...

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S WELL FORTIFIED. ONLY A GROUP OF AGENTS WITH **YOUR** EXCEPTIONAL 'TALENTS' COULD BREAK INTO STARCKE, FREE PENNYBRAVE, AND GET HIM BACK TO ENGLAND!

SO, THAT NIGHT, A PLANE DROINED ACROSS THE DARK SKY OF ZORNYA...

THEN FOUR PARACHUTES DRIFTED DOWN TOWARDS THE OUTSKIRTS OF A BLACK FOREST...

GET THOSE 'CHUTES BURIED THE MINUTE WE TOUCH DOWN! WE DON'T WANT ANYONE RUNNING ACROSS 'EM!

THEY WERE SCRATCHING PITS IN THE SOIL TO BURY THE 'CHUTES, WHEN...

STAND STILL! RAISE YOUR HANDS! ENEMY AGENTS, EH? YOU SEEK TO SABOTAGE THE FREE REPUBLIC OF ZORNYA?

IN A FLASH, GOGGLES HAD PLANTED A PICTURE IN THE GUARD'S MIND...

HARMLESS GIPSIES, MASTER, JOURNEYING THROUGH THIS LAND. WE DO ILL TO NO ONE!

WHA... WHAT? BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN... NEVER MIND! JUST MAKE SURE YOU DO NO DAMAGE!

BEDAZZLED, THE GUARD MARCHED OFF...

QUICK THINKING, GOGGLES! YOU SAVED OUR HIDES... HOPE THAT GUARD DOESN'T COME BACK FOR ANOTHER LOOK!

HE WON'T, CRAG. HE'S CONVINCED WE'RE GIPSIES!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN CASTLE STARCKE, THE ENORMOUS ZOLTAN SCHWEINZEL HAD CALLED FOR HIS PRISONER...

SO, PROFESSOR... YOU REFUSE TO GIVE US THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO MAKE A HYDROGEN BOMB FOR THIS GLORIOUS COUNTRY? I ADVISE YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!

CERTAINLY YOUR COUNTRYMEN WILL TRY TO RESCUE YOU... BUT GIVE UP ALL HOPE, **FOR THEY WILL FAIL!** YOU SEE, I AM READY FOR THEM!

WHEN DAWN BROKE NEXT DAY, THE ESPER COMMANDOS, DISGUISED AS ZORNYAN CITIZENS, WERE ON THE EDGE OF A SMALL MARKET TOWN...

CASTLE STARCKE IS STILL FIFTEEN MILES AWAY. WE'VE GOT TO GET SOME KIND OF TRANSPORT, LADS...

SLIM READ THE MIND OF THE TRUCK-DRIVER WHO WAS STROLLING TOWARDS THEM ...



INSIDE THE DINGY EATING-HOUSE, CRAG'S AMAZING POWERS LEVITATED THE KEYS FROM THE DRIVER'S POCKET...



MOMENTS LATER, THE KEYS WERE FLOATING TOWARDS CRAG'S HANDS...



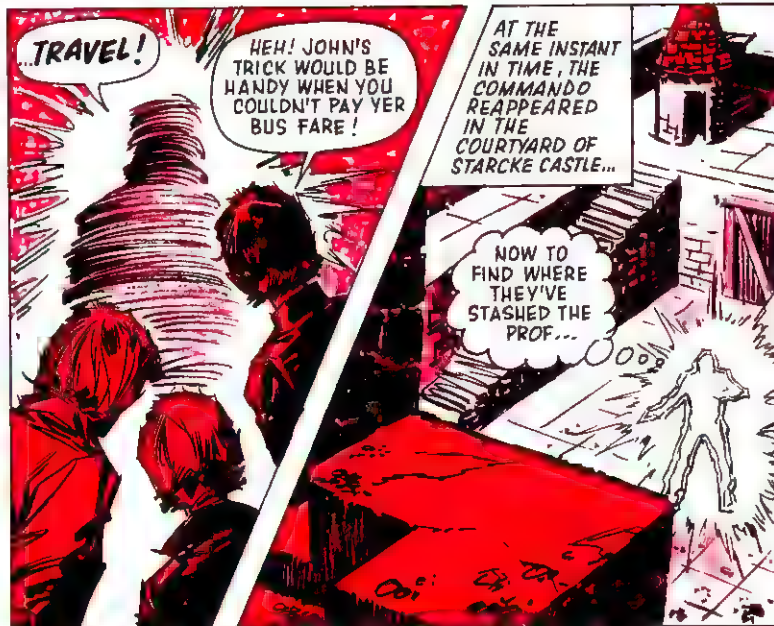
THEY DROVE OUT OVER THE RUTTED ROADS UNTIL THEY BEGAN A LONG, SLOW CLIMB UP THE STEEP MOUNTAIN TRACKS...



THE OLD VEHICLE SQUEALED TO A HALT...



CRAG'S MIND-POWER RESTARTED THE TRUCK, AND DROVE IT ALONG THE CLIFF-ROAD, UNTIL...





BUT...

HEY, YOU!

OH-OH!
TROUBLE
ALREADY...



WHO
ARE YOU?
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

I'M FROM THE SECRET
POLICE, COMRADE...
JUST CHECKING TO
ENSURE NO ONE CAN
BREAK INTO THE
CASTLE!

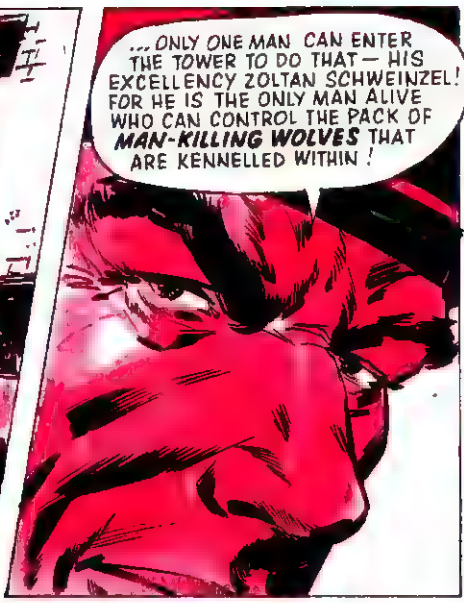


HUH! DON'T
WASTE YOUR TIME,
POLICEMAN. IF THERE
SHOULD BE A BREAK-IN,
NO ONE WILL GET THAT
ENGLISHER OUT!



BIG JOHN'S EYES FOLLOWED THE
GUARD'S POINTING FINGER...

THERE IS
THE PRISONER...
AND THAT CAGE
CAN ONLY BE
LOWERED
FROM THE TOP
OF THE
TOWER!



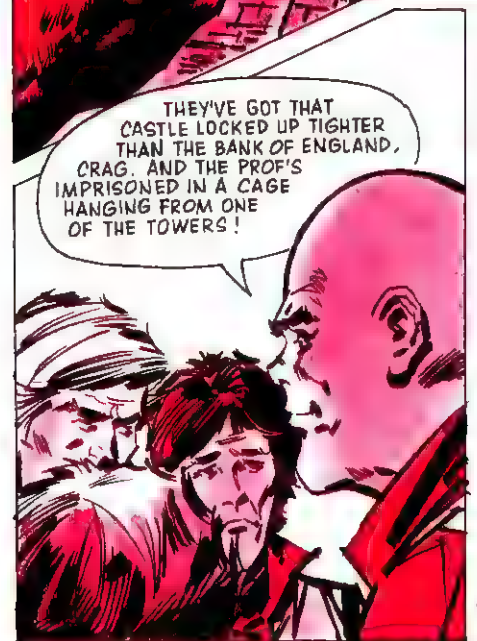
... ONLY ONE MAN CAN ENTER
THE TOWER TO DO THAT - HIS
EXCELLENCY ZOLTAN SCHWEINZEL!
FOR HE IS THE ONLY MAN ALIVE
WHO CAN CONTROL THE PACK OF
MAN-KILLING WOLVES THAT
ARE KENNELLED WITHIN!



A SECOND LATER, BIG JOHN VANISHED
FROM THE GUARD'S SIGHT, AND...

EEK! COR, IT'S YOU AGAIN,
JOHN! I WISH YOU WOULDN'T
KEEP ON STARTLING ME
LIKE THAT, MATE!

WAIT TILL YOU SEE
STARCKE CASTLE, SLIM...
THAT'LL **REALLY**
SCARE YOU!



THEY'VE GOT THAT
CASTLE LOCKED UP TIGHTER
THAN THE BANK OF ENGLAND,
CRAG. AND THE PROF'S
IMPRISONED IN A CAGE
HANGING FROM ONE
OF THE TOWERS!



NO PLACE IS
BUTTONED UP TOO
TIGHT FOR THE ESPER
COMMANDOS, BIG JOHN!
LISTEN, THIS IS WHAT
WE'LL DO...

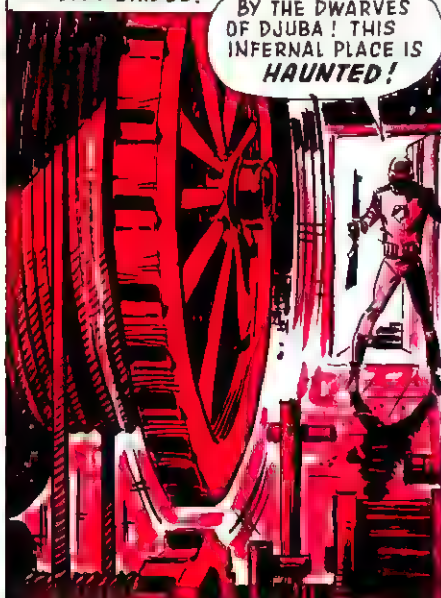


AN HOUR LATER, THE FOUR ESPERS
WERE LOOKING UP AT THE MASSIVE
CASTLE GATEWAY...

YOU'RE RIGHT,
BIG JOHN... A
WHOLE BATTALION
OF TROOPS WOULD
HAVE TROUBLE
BREAKING INTO THAT
PLACE. LET'S SEE
WHAT A BIT OF
MIND-POWER
WILL DO...

INSIDE THE GATE-HOUSE, CRAG'S POWERS TRIPPED THE MECHANISM OPERATING THE DRAWBRIDGE!

BY THE DWARVES OF DJUBA! THIS INFERNAL PLACE IS HAUNTED!



THE DRAWBRIDGE THUMPED DOWN... AND THE PORTCULLIS JERKED UP... LEAVING THE GATEWAY CLEAR!

THIS IS MADNESS! THERE IS NO INTRUDER IN SIGHT... I HAD BETTER GIVE WARNING!



THE GUARD HAD NO CHANCE. CONTROLLED BY CRAG'S ASTONISHING MIND-POWER, A BATTEN OF WOOD LEAPT UP INTO THE AIR, AND...

URGHH!



MIND-READER SLIM HAD SENSED ANOTHER DANGER!

HOLD IT, CRAG! I DETECT A SECOND GUARD IN THAT GATE-HOUSE!

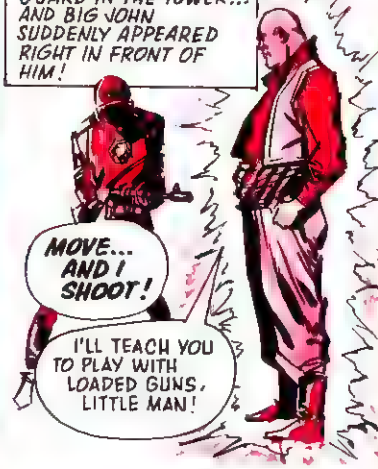
I'LL FIX HIM!



THERE **WAS** A SECOND GUARD IN THE TOWER... AND BIG JOHN SUDDENLY APPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM!

MOVE... AND I SHOOT!

I'LL TEACH YOU TO PLAY WITH LOADED GUNS, LITTLE MAN!



THE ESPER'S FAT PAUNCH COLLIDED WITH THE ZORNYAN SENTRY, AND...



WITH THE TWO GATE-GUARDS OUT OF ACTION, CRAG LED HIS PALS IN...

FROM HERE ON, FELLERS, WE PLAY IT BY EAR. BE READY FOR ANYTHING!



BUT FROM THE CASTLE COURTYARD...

INTRUDER! GUARDS! GUARDS! LOOSE THE WOLVES! THEY WILL DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES!

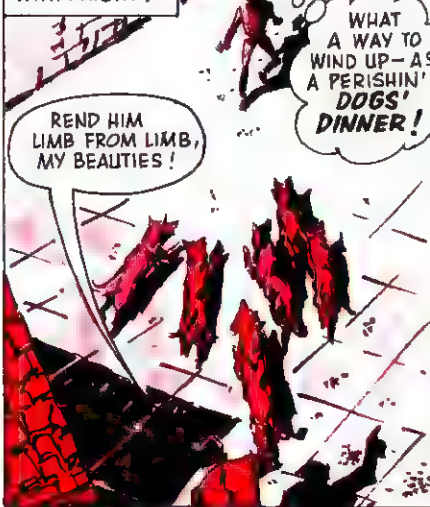


REMOTE-CONTROLLED, THE DOOR OF THE TOWER BURST OPEN, AND...

Y-OWWWLLLL!



SLIM WAS
PARALYSED
WITH FRIGHT!



REND HIM
LIMB FROM LIMB,
MY BEAUTIES!

WHAT
A WAY TO
WIND UP—AS
A PERISHIN'
DOGS'
DINNER!

BUT GOGGLES HAD SEEN SLIM'S
FIX. QUICKLY HE USED HIS OWN
AMAZING MENTAL GIFT...



HECK, I'VE
GOT TO WORK
FAST! WHAT IS
IT THAT SCARES
WOLVES?

AN INSTANT LATER, GOGGLES HAD PLANTED
A PICTURE IN THE WOLVES' BRAINS. THEY
SAW THEIR HUMAN PREY NO LONGER AS
A **MAN**...



YELP! YELP!

NEXT SECOND,
THE PACK RACED
AWAY IN PANIC...



IF THE WOLVES
WILL NOT DESTROY
THE ENEMY,
I WILL!

HE SNATCHED A MACHINE
PISTOL FROM A GUARD...



FOOLS! YOU
COME TO RESCUE
YOUR COUNTRYMAN
... BUT YOU SHALL
MEET YOUR **DEATHS**
AT CASTLE
STARCKE!

BUT CRAG'S ASTONISHING MIND-
POWER MADE THE GUN-BARREL
AS SOFT AS PUTTY, AND ...



EXCELLENCY! DO NOT
SHOOT! THESE MEN
MUST BE WIZARDS!

AAAAAGH!

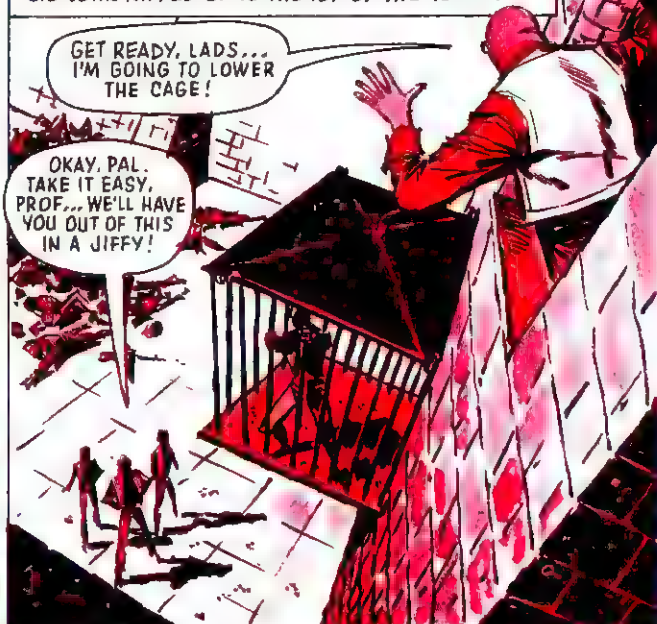
THE ZORNYAN SOLDIERS ALSO FOUND THEMSELVES
FIGHTING THEIR OWN WEAPONS!



UUUUGH!

OOOFFFF!

WHILE CRAG WAS CAUSING CHAOS BELOW,
BIG JOHN NIPPED UP TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER...



GET READY, LADS...
I'M GOING TO LOWER
THE CAGE!

OKAY, PAL.
TAKE IT EASY.
PROF... WE'LL HAVE
YOU OUT OF THIS
IN A JIFFY!

BUT SLIM SENSED TROUBLE AGAIN...

CRAG!
THAT BIG
BLOKE...E
JUST WON'T
GIVE UP!
WATCH OUT!

I'LL SORT 'EM OUT,
ONCE AND FOR ALL! JUST
GET AN EYEFUL OF
THIS, MATE!

ZOLTAN AND HIS FOLLOWERS WERE FACED
WITH THE MOST FANTASTIC SIGHT THEY
HAD EVER SEEN... **A MONSTROUS
CRAB!**

WHAT
TRICKERY
IS THIS?

I TOLD YOU, COMRADE... THESE
MEN PRACTISE **MAGIC!** NO
ONE CAN FIGHT AGAINST SUCH
POWERS OF SORCERY!

GOGGLES CONTINUED IN HIS ROLE OF 'GIANT CRAB'
WHILE THE PROFESSOR WAS FREED...

OUT YOU COME,
PROF... AND
WE'LL BE ON
OUR WAY!

LOOK AT THAT KID! HE'S GOT THOSE
GOONS CONVINCED HE'S SOME KIND
OF **MONSTER FROM 20,000
FATHOMS!** THEY'RE SCARED
STIFF OF HIM!

WITH THE ENTIRE GARRISON
OF THE CASTLE IN FEAR AND
TREMBLING, CRAG "WILLED"
FORWARD THE ONLY FORM
OF TRANSPORT HANDY...

ALL ABOARD,
GENTS...
YOUR CARRIAGE
AWAITS!

INCREDIBLE!
WHAT MOTIVE
POWER...

WE'LL EXPLAIN
LATER, PROF.
RIGHT NOW,
WE'VE NO
TIME!

PAUSING FOR A SECOND TO SNATCH
UP GOGGLES, CRAG & CO. RATTLED
OFF THROUGH THE CASTLE GATEWAY...

**HOME, JAMES... AND AS
FAST AS YOU LIKE!** I THINK
WE'VE OUTSTAYED OUR
WELCOME IN THIS JOINT!

THE 'CRAG-POWERED' TRAILER ZOOMED
TOWARDS A FLAT PLATEAU IN THE NEARBY
HILLS...

BANG ON TIME, FELLERS!
THIS IS WHERE THE PLANE'S
SUPPOSED TO PICK US UP...
AND HERE IT COMES!

SOON THEY WERE
ABOARD THE PLANE
AND ON THEIR WAY
HOME...

MY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, GENTLEMEN.
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MANAGED
TO RESCUE ME... BUT I AM MOST GRATEFUL!

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, PROF.
JUST PUT IT DOWN TO ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL MISSION BY **THE
ESPER COMMANDOS!**

MARKSMAN VERSUS THE SABOTEUR

AN AUTOMATIC MACHINE RIFLE OF ADVANCED DESIGN CRASHED OUT A FUSILLADE OF SHOTS IN RAPID SUCCESSION. MARKSMAN — LEGENDARY MASTER OF ALL WEAPONS — WAS DEMONSTRATING HIS PHENOMENAL ACCURACY!



POW POW POW

GETTA LOAD O' THAT SHOOTING!

A THOUSAND YARDS WITHOUT TELESCOPIC SIGHTS AND HE WRITES HIS INITIAL PERFECTLY!



AN AMUSED SMILE SPREAD ACROSS THE HANDSOME FEATURES OF MARKSMAN...



I'M GLAD YOU'RE IMPRESSED, GENTLEMEN. I ONLY WISH OUR BROTHERS OF THE CRIMINAL FRATERNITY THOUGHT THE SAME... IT WOULD MAKE MY JOB MUCH EASIER!

MARKSMAN WAS THE DYNAMIC YOUNG SECURITY CHIEF AT THE EXCEL ADVANCED ROCKET RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT...

WE SURE DO APPRECIATE YOU GIVING US THIS GUIDED TOUR, SON!

YEAH... BUT COULD WE HAVE JUST ONE MORE OF YOUR DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE WE PROCEED... PLEASE?



OKAY, THROW THESE COINS AS HIGH AS YOU CAN, PROFESSOR... BUT DON'T TELL ME UNTIL THEY ACTUALLY LEAVE YOUR HAND!



HUH? YOU MEAN... YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA LOOK?

IT WAS LIKE MAGIC! NOT ONE OF THE VISITING SCIENTISTS SAW THE AUTOMATICS APPEAR IN MARKSMAN'S HANDS. THEY HEARD ONLY TWIN ROARS!

NOW!



THEN...

STAGGERING! QUITE STAGGERING! EACH ONE HAS A HOLE BANG THROUGH THE CENTRE! BRILLIANT SHOOTING, SIR!

MARKSMAN SMILED...

THANK YOU... BUT ENOUGH OF MY PARTY GAMES... YOU HAVE STILL TO SEE THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR VISIT... **THE INVADER!**

RATHER! IT'S NOT EVERY DAY ONE SEES WHAT IS TO BE EARTH'S LEADING STRIKE MISSILE!

INSIDE THE VAST BUILDING, THE SHIMMERING METAL SURFACE OF THE STREAM-LINED ROCKET WAS ALMOST TOO DAZZLING TO BEHOLD!

WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, **THE INVADER** WILL HAVE THE SPEED AND DESTRUCTIVE FORCE TO DEFEND US AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSARIES IN OUR GALAXY!

WHAT ABOUT THE FUEL, MARKSMAN?

AND ITS RATE OF CLIMB?

WHOA! THAT'S ENOUGH!

HOW IS THE INVADER CONTROLLED?

YOU SHOULD KNOW **BETTER** THAN TO ASK QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, GENTLEMEN! ALL THAT INFORMATION IS ON THE SECRET LIST! IF ANY OF IT FELL INTO THE WRONG HANDS **ANYTHING** COULD HAPPEN!

THEY WERE PROPHETIC WORDS! NOT EVEN THE EAGLE-EYED MARKSMAN SAW THE TINY, EGG-LIKE OBJECT WHICH WAS ROLLING ACROSS THE FLOOR...

AND JUST AS THE VISITING SCIENTISTS WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE ROCKET HOUSING...

BAROOM

AN EXPLOSION! THE INVADER'S BLOWN UP!

BELLS RANG... SIRENS WAILED... AND THE EXCEL ESTABLISHMENT'S EMERGENCY FORCES SLID INTO WELL-REHEARSED ACTION!

STAND CLEAR, GENTLEMEN - THEY'LL SOON HAVE THINGS UNDER CONTROL!

BLACK, BILLOWING CLOUDS OF DENSE SMOKE ENVELOPED THE ENTIRE SCENE. TEN MINUTES PASSED BEFORE...

EXCUSE ME, MARKSMAN... SOMETHING FUNNY IS GOING ON. **THE INVADER** HAS NOT REALLY BEEN HARMED. THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION WAS... **THIS!**

MARKSMAN'S REACTION CAME WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

SEAL OFF THE AREA!
NO-ONE IS TO LEAVE THE
ESTABLISHMENT! A DELAYED-
ACTION FIRE-BOMB HAS BEEN
USED! THIS IS SABOTAGE!



AND EVEN AS HE TURNED...

HOLD IT! ONE OF YOU IS
MISSING! I'D BEEN SHOWING SIX
OF YOU AROUND, HADN'T I?

WHY...
YES!

DOCTOR
CHRISTIE...
WHERE IS
HE?



AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN THE
MAIN BUILDING...

ZUUNK!

STRICTLY NO
ADMITTANCE.
PLANNING STAFF
ONLY



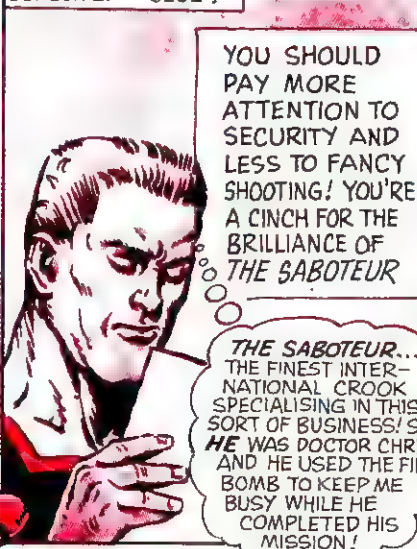
UUURGH!

FAST THOUGH HE MOVED, THE YOUNG
SECURITY CHIEF WAS JUST TOO LATE!



NO! THE
PLANS OF THE
INVADER -
THEY'VE BEEN
STOLEN!

THERE WAS ONE SOLITARY - AND
CONCEITED - CLUE!



YOU SHOULD
PAY MORE
ATTENTION TO
SECURITY AND
LESS TO FANCY
SHOOTING! YOU'RE
A CINC FOR THE
BRILLIANCE OF
THE SABOTEUR

THE SABOTEUR...
THE FINEST INTER-
NATIONAL CROOK
SPECIALISING IN THIS
SORT OF BUSINESS! SO
HE WAS DOCTOR CHRISTIE,
AND HE USED THE FIRE-
BOMB TO KEEP ME
BUSY WHILE HE
COMPLETED HIS
MISSION!

MARKSMAN'S STEEL-GREY EYES
GLINTED FIERCELY!



ALL RIGHT, MY CLEVER
FRIEND, YOU'RE ONE
AHEAD AT PRESENT! BUT
NO-ONE GETS THE BETTER
OF MARKSMAN WITHOUT
KNOWING HE'S BEEN
IN A FIGHT!

HE COVERED THE GROUND WITH
LONG, TIRELESS STRIDES...



THE SABOTEUR
MUST HAVE GOT OUT
BY THE SKIN OF HIS
TEETH! THE GUARDS
AT THE MAIN GATE
WILL BE ABLE TO
TELL ME...

DOCTOR CHRISTIE,
SIR? WHY - YES - WE BOOKED
HIM OUT FIVE MINUTES AGO! HE
WAS DRIVING ONE OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT'S CARS. BUT...



NO TIME
FOR 'BUTS', JOHNSON!
I WANT TO BORROW
YOUR MOTOR
BIKE!

WISH
ME LUCK -
ALL OUR JOBS
MIGHT DEPEND
ON IT!

MARKSMAN KICKED THE
HIGH-POWERED MACHINE
INTO SNARLING LIFE!



BENDING LOW OVER THE TANK, HE HOWLED AWAY IN PURSUIT...

MARKSMAN WAS RIGHT! THREE SPEED-FILLED MINUTES LATER...

BUT THE YOUNG SECURITY CHIEF WAS DEALING WITH A RUTHLESS AND CUNNING OPPONENT...

HE'S DRIVING AN EXCEL CAR, EH? THAT SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH TO SPOT, ANYWAY...

THERE HE IS! I'VE CAUGHT HIM!

THE HUGE SPEED-IRON ATE UP THE REMAINING DISTANCE WITH EASE. THEN, SUDDENLY THE CAR BRAKED! THE ROAD WAS TOO NARROW FOR MARKSMAN TO SWERVE, AND...

SO! HE HAS WASTED LITTLE TIME! BUT NO MATTER... HE IS RIDING FOR A FALL

AFTER THE SCREAM OF TORTURED RUBBER, CAME THE SICKENING CLATTER OF TEARING, RENDING METAL... THEN SILENCE!

VERY NEAT - EVEN IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

UP YOU COME, GLAMOUR BOY - I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE FOR EVERYONE TO FIND! YOU'VE BEEN DEMONSTRATING SOME CLEVER TRICKS TODAY - NOW IT'S MY TURN!

AAAAARRRR!

SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, THE MISTS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS CLEARED FROM MARKSMAN'S THROBBING HEAD...

UUUUH! WHAT... HAPPENED? WHERE... AM... I?

TAKE A LOOK AROUND, PAL - YOU'RE GOIN' ON A LITTLE BOAT-TRIP!

YOU! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE PLANS OF THE INVADER?

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU! IT'LL ADD TO YOUR AGONY! I'M GOING TO SELL THEM TO THE HIGHEST BIDDING FOREIGN COUNTRY... I'LL BE A MILLIONAIRE!

SUNLIGHT FLASHED ON A KNIFE-BLADE.

BUT WE'RE WASTING TIME! I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU FROM THE SURPRISE THAT AWAITS YOU! FAREWELL, MIGHTY MARKSMAN - AND BAD LUCK GO WITH YOU!

IMMEDIATELY THE FRAIL BARK CANOE WAS CAUGHT UP BY THE FAST-FLOWING CURRENT AND SWEEPED DOWNSTREAM...



TRUST THE SABOTEUR!
HE LOVES THESE DRAMATIC
LITTLE GAMES! ALL THE SAME,
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S IN
STORE FOR ME!

BUT THE RESOURCEFUL MARKSMAN WAS STILL ABLE TO SMILE...

YES... HE WAS SO
SURE OF HIMSELF, HE DIDN'T
EVEN BOTHER TO
SEARCH ME!



GRADUALLY HIS FINGERS INCHED
NEARER... NEARER... NEARER... A
SMALL, KEEN-BLADED KNIFE IN A
HIDDEN SHEATH!



TIME WAS RUNNING OUT FAST, BUT
MARKSMAN REFUSED TO PANIC.
IT PAID OFF...



SUDDENLY...

THAT ROARING SOUND -
AND THE CANOE'S GOING
FASTER THAN EVER!
THIS... THIS IS THE
BLACK RIVER, AND
AHEAD...



THE
...ROCKY
FALLS!

AMID A WELTER OF FLYING SPRAY,
HE TORE A THIN NYLON ROPE FROM
HIS WAIST...



ATTACHED TO THE END... A TINY
BOOMERANG!

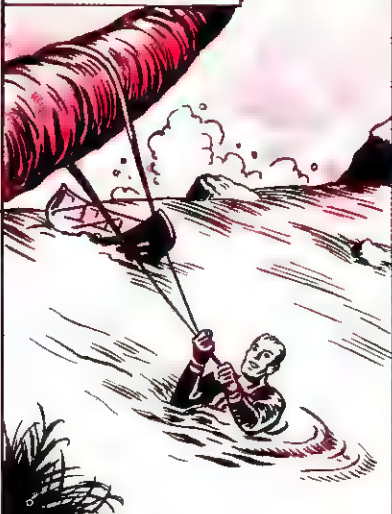


MARKSMAN MADE NO MISTAKE... IT
WAS A PERFECTLY JUDGED THROW!



BACK YOU
COME, MY BEAUTY -
AND ONLY JUST
IN TIME!

ALTHOUGH HE WAS SAFEGUARDED BY THE SLENDER CORD, IT STILL MEANT A DUCKING!



SECONDS LATER, THE EMPTY CANOE WAS DRAGGED OVER THE EDGE... TO DISAPPEAR BENEATH COUNTLESS TONS OF FOAMING WATER!



PHEW! AND TO THINK I COULD HAVE BEEN *IN* THAT THING! THAT'S *ANOTHER* SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE SABOTEUR!

DESPITE HIS NARROW ESCAPE, MARKSMAN'S KEEN BRAIN HAD NOT BEEN IDLE...



HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SELL THE PLANS TO A *FOREIGN POWER*! HE'S GOING TO WANT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY... AND THAT MEANS *A PLANE*!

AND SURE ENOUGH, IN THE VALLEY BELOW...

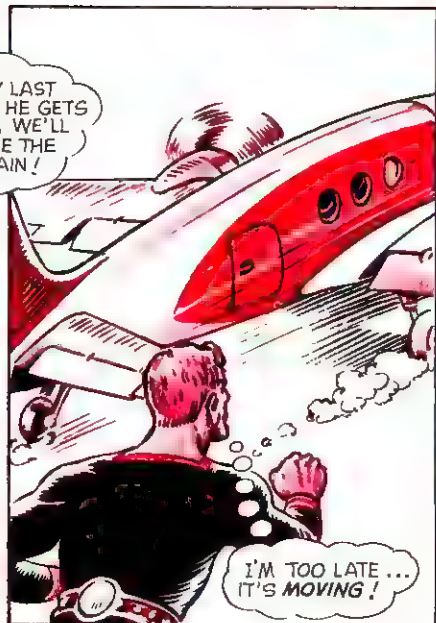


A PLANE — WARMING UP! IT *MUST* BE THE SABOTEUR!

MARKSMAN EXPLODED INTO A FANTASTIC, BREATH-ROBBING SPRINT...



THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE! IF HE GETS AWAY NOW, WE'LL *NEVER* SEE THE PLANS AGAIN!



I'M TOO LATE... IT'S MOVING!

BUT WITH A FINAL DESPERATE EFFORT, MARKSMAN FLUNG HIMSELF THROUGH THE AIR!



UUUUUGH! GOT... TO HANG ON...!

AS THE PLANE CLIMBED RAPIDLY THE SABOTEUR SMILED CONTENTEDLY AT THE CONTROLS...



YET *ANOTHER* BRILLIANT OPERATION! AND A VERY SATISFYING ONE, IN THAT I MANAGED TO DISPOSE OF THE SUPPOSEDLY INVINCIBLE MARKSMAN! HAH!

A MOCKING VOICE BROKE IN!



THAT'S WHAT *YOU* THINK, MEATHEAD! I GUESS YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A *GHOST* FOR A PASSENGER!

WHAT...? MARKSMAN!

WITH A SCREAM OF RAGE, THE MASTER-CROOK FLUNG HIMSELF FROM THE PILOT'S SEAT...



YOU FREAK!
YOU SHOULD
BE A GONER!
I MADE SURE
OF IT! BUT
I'LL GET YOU
YET!

MARKSMAN SWAYED ASIDE FROM THE MAD, HEADLONG DASH, AND...



EEEEAAAAGH!

JEEPERS! HE'S
GONE STRAIGHT OUT!
BUT I'M NOT LOSING
THOSE ROCKET PLANS
AFTER ALL THIS!

FANTASTICALLY, HE LAUNCHED HIMSELF INTO EMPTY SPACE... IN A SUPER SKY DIVE!



TUCKED UP, MARKSMAN DROPPED AT TREMENDOUS SPEED...



YOU'RE
NOT GETTING
AWAY AS EASILY
AS ALL THAT,
SABOTEUR!

A MERE HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE GROUND, THE SABOTEUR FELT HIMSELF TAKEN BY THE SCRUFF OF THE NECK...



BE READY FOR
EVERYTHING,
THAT'S MY MOTTO!
I ALWAYS CARRY
A PARACHUTE IN
MY BELT!

BUT AS THEY LANDED...



ZOONNNK!

OOOEEERGH!

OKAY, BUDDY,
IF YOU WANT
TO PLAY TOUGH...



THERE WAS ONE LAST SCYTHING DEVICE STILL TO COME... CONCEALED IN MARKSMAN'S BOOT-HEEL...



THEY USE
THE BOLAS
IN SOUTH
AMERICA FOR
BRINGING
DOWN
STEERS...



...BUT IT
BRINGS DOWN
ORNERY
THIEVING
CROOKS JUST
AS WELL!

GRROOHH!

I'LL LOOK AFTER THESE PLANS, PAL - WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU WON'T NEED 'EM!



AND REMEMBER,
WHEN YOU NEXT TRY
YOUR HAND AT THE
CRIMINAL GAME, KEEP
AWAY FROM MY
TERRITORY! I ALWAYS
HIT THE TARGET!

KERLUNK

WHEREVER CRIMINALS GATHER, THE MENTION OF ONE NAME CAUSES THEM TO LOOK OVER THEIR SHOULDERS IN FEAR... THE NAME OF A MAN WHOSE IDENTITY WAS, FOR YEARS, UNKNOWN. NOW, AT LAST, WE HAVE GAINED SPECIAL PERMISSION TO REVEAL HOW THIS CRIME-BUSTER'S ACTION-PACKED CAREER BEGAN... HOW THE WORLD FIRST HEARD OF...

THE PHANTOM



OUR STORY BEGINS WITH A DINNER PARTY GIVEN BY SIR JOHN RYDER, WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST AND PROPRIETOR OF THE DAILY WORLD NEWSPAPER. AS USUAL, HIS PARTY WAS A GLITTERING AFFAIR ATTENDED BY LONDON'S ELITE.



BUT THAT NIGHT THERE WAS ONE UNINVITED GUEST...



THERE SHOULD BE SOME RICH PICKINGS TONIGHT — AND ANOTHER POKE IN THE EYE FOR RYDER!

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, LADIES, AND DON'T MAKE A SOUND. JUST HAND OVER YOUR JEWELLERY AND NO ONE WILL BE HURT!



WHAT...

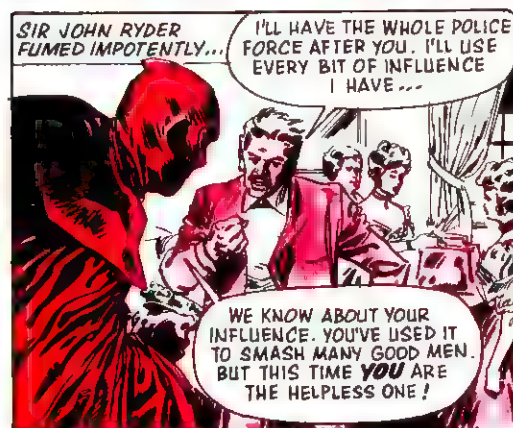
ONE OF THE GUESTS MADE A DASH FOR THE DOOR, BUT THE INTRUDER WAS ARMED...



THAT WAS ONLY A PARALYSING DART, BUT THE NEXT TROUBLE-MAKER GETS A REAL BULLET!

SIR JOHN RYDER FUMED IMPOTENTLY...

I'LL HAVE THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE AFTER YOU. I'LL USE EVERY BIT OF INFLUENCE I HAVE...

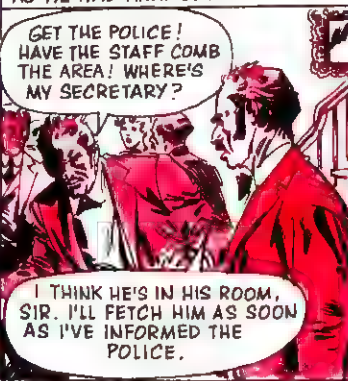


WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR INFLUENCE. YOU'VE USED IT TO SMASH MANY GOOD MEN. BUT THIS TIME **YOU** ARE THE HELPLESS ONE!

I MUST GO NOW, BUT AS A TOKEN OF OUR MEETING... HERE IS MY CARD.



THE BAT DISAPPEARED AS QUICKLY AS HE HAD ARRIVED...



GET THE POLICE! HAVE THE STAFF COMB THE AREA! WHERE'S MY SECRETARY?

I THINK HE'S IN HIS ROOM, SIR. I'LL FETCH HIM AS SOON AS I'VE INFORMED THE POLICE.

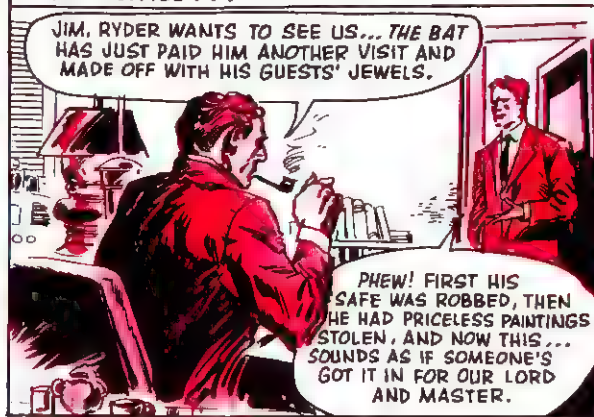
A FEW MINUTES LATER THE SECRETARY CAME INTO THE ROOM...



YOU WANTED ME, SIR?

TRAVERS, CALL UP PAUL STONE, THE EDITOR OF THE WORLD --- I WANT HIM HERE IMMEDIATELY. AND TELL HIM TO BRING MAGUIRE, THAT CRIME REPORTER.

AT THE DAILY WORLD JIM MAGUIRE ENTERED HIS EDITOR'S OFFICE...



JIM, RYDER WANTS TO SEE US... THE BAT HAS JUST PAID HIM ANOTHER VISIT AND MADE OFF WITH HIS GUESTS' JEWELS.

PHEW! FIRST HIS SAFE WAS ROBBED, THEN HE HAD PRICELESS PAINTINGS STOLEN. AND NOW THIS... SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE'S GOT IT IN FOR OUR LORD AND MASTER.

LATER... STONE, I'M BEING MADE A LAUGHING STOCK BY THIS SCOUNDREL WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE BAT. I WANT A FRONT PAGE SPREAD ABOUT MY OFFER OF TEN THOUSAND POUNDS FOR HIS CAPTURE.



BUT IF I HAVE TO PAY OUT THAT MONEY, YOU'RE FIRED, MAGUIRE! YOU'RE MY TOP CRIME REPORTER --- SO GET BUSY. FIND THE BAT!

NEXT MORNING JIM BEGAN THE ROUNDS OF HIS UNDERWORLD CONTACTS. FINALLY...



COME ON, LEFTY. WHAT D'YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BAT?

I DON'T KNOW NOTHING, MR MAGUIRE. HONEST... HE'S A MYSTERY MAN.

MONEY CHANGED HANDS...



WELL... IT MAY NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ON AT RYDER'S CHEMICAL FACTORY A WEEK FROM TONIGHT. I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT...

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, LEFTY. THANKS FOR THE TIP.

A WEEK LATER, IN THE WORLD OFFICES...

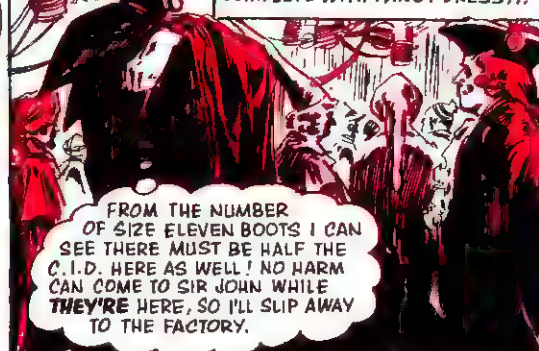


JIM, YOU'RE GOING TO A FANCY DRESS BALL TONIGHT. SIR JOHN WILL BE THERE --- AND YOU'RE TO STICK TO HIM LIKE A LEECH!

ER... SURE, PAUL.

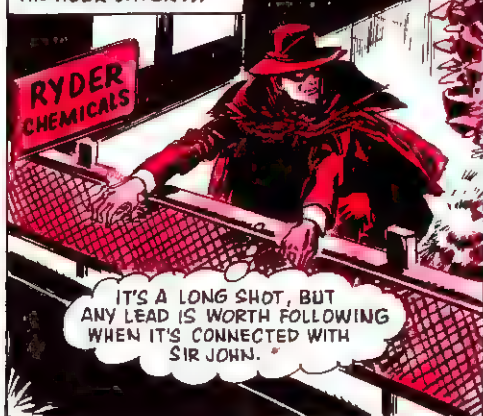
DARN IT! THAT RUINS MY PLAN TO BE AT RYDER'S FACTORY!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT, JIM MAGUIRE WAS AT THE PARTY --- COMPLETE WITH FANCY DRESS...



FROM THE NUMBER OF SIZE ELEVEN BOOTS I CAN SEE THERE MUST BE HALF THE C.I.D. HERE AS WELL! NO HARM CAN COME TO SIR JOHN WHILE THEY'RE HERE, SO I'LL SLIP AWAY TO THE FACTORY.

AN HOUR LATER...



IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT ANY LEAD IS WORTH FOLLOWING WHEN IT'S CONNECTED WITH SIR JOHN.

IT WAS A LONG SHOT THAT PAID OFF... JIM FOUND HIS WAY INSIDE THE PLANT, AND...



IT IS THE BAT! BUT WITH TWO OTHERS CAN'T TACKLE THEM ON MY OWN... I'D BETTER GET THE POLICE HERE.

SUDDENLY, JIM OVERBALANCED...



THE BAT AND HIS COLLEAGUES HEARD THE DISTURBANCE...



A WILD, BREATH-ROBBING CHASE BEGAN... BUT...

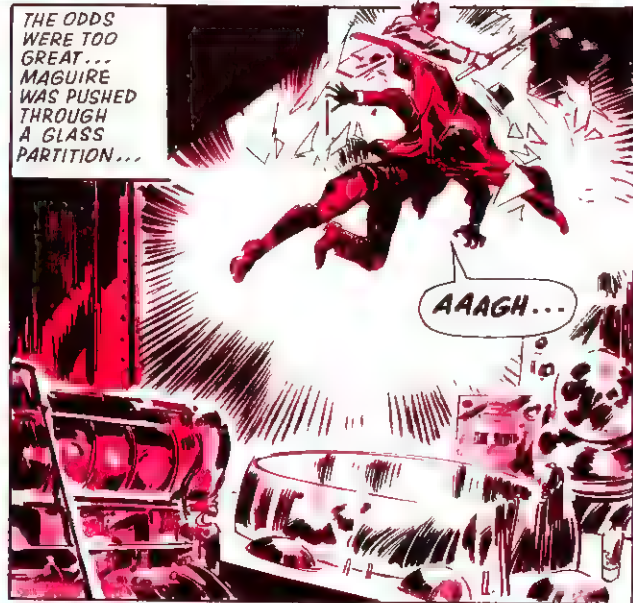


JIM PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR HIS LIFE...

ALL RIGHT, SNOOPER... YOU WANT TROUBLE—HERE IT COMES!



THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT... MAGUIRE WAS PUSHED THROUGH A GLASS PARTITION...



AND TUMBLED INTO A HUGE DRUM CONTAINING A CHEMICAL POWDER...



IT WAS MORE THAN TEN MINUTES BEFORE JIM RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS...

WHAT HAPP... WHERE AM I... THE BAT!



THERE HE IS—IT'S THE BAT!

JIM HURLED HIMSELF AGAINST A STURDY WOODEN DOOR. STRANGELY, IT SPLINTERED LIKE MATCHWOOD...

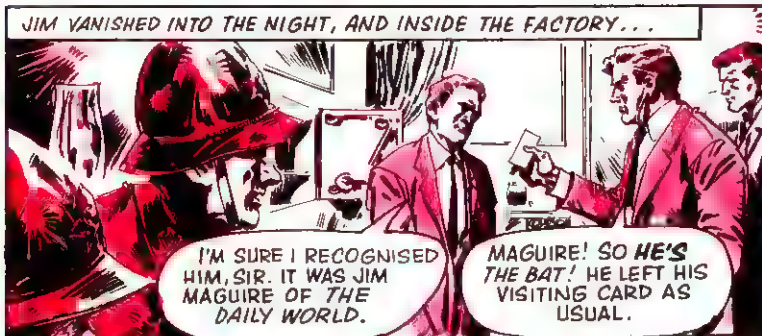


AND OUTSIDE...



I SEEM TO HAVE SOME **SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH!** I CAN TEAR THESE STEEL GATES APART LIKE TISSUE PAPER!

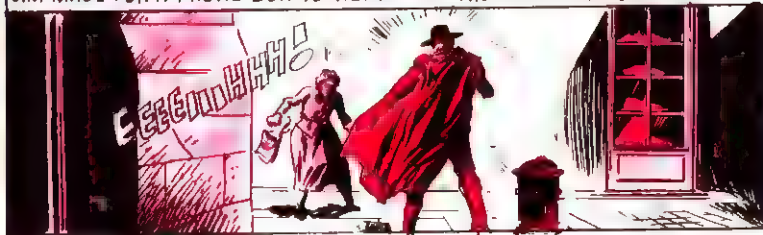
JIM VANISHED INTO THE NIGHT, AND INSIDE THE FACTORY...



I'M SURE I RECOGNISED HIM, SIR. IT WAS JIM MAGUIRE OF THE DAILY WORLD.

MAGUIRE! SO HE'S THE BAT! HE LEFT HIS VISITING CARD AS USUAL.

JIM MADE FOR A PHONE BOX TO REPORT ON THE ROBBERY. BUT...



THEN JIM CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIS REFLECTION IN A WINDOW... AN EERIE GLOW SURROUNDED HIM!



GREAT SCOTT! I LOOK LIKE A GHOST... A PHANTOM!

SLOWLY THE TRUTH DAWNED ON HIM...



THAT POWDER I FELL INTO... IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF LUMINOUS CHEMICAL!



AND THE ELECTRIC SHOCK HAS REACTED ON THE CHEMICALS TO AFFECT THE MOLECULES IN MY BODY... AND GIVEN ME **INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!**

GUESSING THE POLICE WOULD BE AFTER HIM, JIM SOUGHT SHELTER...



IT'S ME, LEFTY! JIM MAGUIRE! I NEED TO LIE LOW FOR A FEW DAYS...

LAWKS, MISTER MAGUIRE, I THOUGHT IT WAS ONE OF ME LONG DEAD ANCESTORS COME TO HAUNT ME!

JIM HURRIEDLY EXPLAINED... AND LEFTY LENT HIM AN OLD SUIT...



WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISTER MAGUIRE?

MY STRENGTH... IT'S GONE! SO IT ONLY COMES WHEN I WEAR THE OUTFIT... WHEN I'M THE PHANTOM!

FOR A WEEK JIM STAYED IN HIDING... AND ONE MORNING AN ITEM IN THE PAPER CAUGHT HIS ATTENTION...



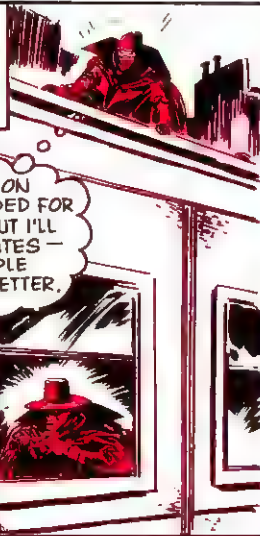
SO... THE WORLD IS STAGING AN EXHIBITION OF THE MAHARAJAH OF BRANDI'S JEWELS. THE BAT WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THAT OPPORTUNITY TO HUMILIATE RYDER!

THROUGH LEFTY, JIM BOOKED A ROOM IN THE HOTEL OPPOSITE THE WORLD OFFICES. THEN HE WAITED, AND WATCHED...

THE GUARDS MUST HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH REVOLVERS TO PROTECT THE JEWELS, BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THAT WILL DETER THE BAT!



JIM WAS RIGHT. FROM THE ROOF OF THE SAME HOTEL THE BAT WAS ALSO WATCHING THE DISPLAY ROOM...



THE EXHIBITION SHOULD BE ENDED FOR THE DAY NOW. BUT I'LL WAIT TEN MINUTES — THE LESS PEOPLE ABOUT THE BETTER.

SOON...

THERE HE IS! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT, BUT HE JUST APPEARS THROUGH THIN AIR... I'LL WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS...



AS THE VISITORS LEFT, THE BAT MOVED IN. TWO TINY PELLETS SMASHED ON TO THE FLOOR...



CAN'T BREATHE...

IT'S GAS... UUGH!

THE PHANTOM HURLED HIMSELF FORWARDS...



DESPERATE HANDS CLUTCHED AT THE PARAPET OF THE DAILY WORLD BUILDING...



MADE IT! NOW TO PAY THE BAT A SURPRISE VISIT!

IT'S TIME THE PHANTOM ACTED! LOOK OUT, BAT — THIS IS WHERE YOUR LITTLE GAME ENDS!



MOMENTS LATER...

DON'T MOVE, BAT — THIS GUN JUST MIGHT GO OFF!

WHAT THE...

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CLIMB DOWN WALLS LIKE THE BAT BUT THIS ROPE WILL GET ME THERE JUST THE SAME!





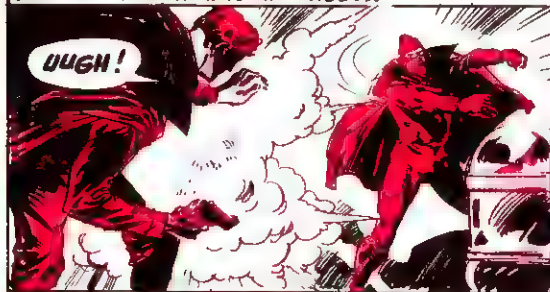
WHO... WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU A MAN OR...

I'M A MAN, ALL RIGHT—
A MAN ACCUSED OF
YOUR CRIMES!

AT THAT MOMENT ONE OF THE GUARDS GROANED, AND AS THE PHANTOM GLANCED SIDWAYS...



THE PHANTOM AVOIDED THE BRIEF CASE... BUT NOT THE GAS PHIAL THROWN INTO HIS FACE...



UGH!

WITH HIS LAST OUNCE OF
FADING STRENGTH THE
PHANTOM LURCHED
FORWARD...



YOU
HAVEN'T...
WON... YET
... UUUHH...

A GOOD TRY, GHOST-
MAN! BUT NOT GOOD
ENOUGH!

WITH THE AID OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL WILL-POWER AND
STRENGTH, THE PHANTOM WAS RECOVERING WHEN A
GUARD ENTERED MOMENTS LATER...



WHAT... STAY
WHERE YOU ARE—
OR I **SHOOT!**

THE PHANTOM DIVED FOR
THE WINDOW. HIS BULLET-
PROOF CLOAK REPELLED
THE GUARD'S BULLETS...



I—I HIT HIM POINT
BLANK! IT HAD NO
EFFECT! HE... IT...
REALLY IS A
GHOST!

BLAM!
BLAM!



NOW FOR
THE BAT!



THE CHASE CONTINUED OVER ROOF-TOPS...

ACROSS
RAILWAY
BRIDGES...



GIVE UP, PHANTOM MAN
— BEFORE YOU KILL
YOURSELF!

IF I DO
I'M TAKING YOU
WITH ME,
BAT!

BUT SOME FEATS WERE NOT FOR THE PHANTOM...



COME ON, PHANTOM, WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW ME? SURELY YOU'RE NOT SCARED?

YOU'RE DARNED RIGHT I'M SCARED—AND YOU KNOW I CAN'T CLIMB DOWN SHEER WALLS. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY!

THE PHANTOM LEAPED INTO SPACE...



IF I MISS EVEN MY STRENGTH WON'T SAVE ME!

HIS AIM WAS GOOD...



NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S SCARED, BATTY!

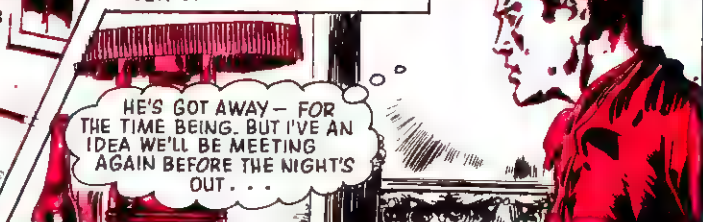
BUT THE BAT HAD ONE TRICK TOO MANY FOR THE PHANTOM...



EVEN YOU CAN'T JUMP THIS DISTANCE, PHANTOM. FAREWELL—AND NEXT TIME STAY IN YOUR OWN LEAGUE!

HE'S RIGHT—IT'S MUCH TOO FAR FOR ME! BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT?

JIM CLIMBED THROUGH AN OPEN OFFICE WINDOW AND PEELLED OFF HIS PHANTOM SUIT...



HE'S GOT AWAY—FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT I'VE AN IDEA WE'LL BE MEETING AGAIN BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OUT...

AVOIDING CROWDED STREETS, JIM MADE HIS WAY TO SIR JOHN RYDER'S HOUSE...



THAT'S THE ROOM. NOW TO CHANGE BACK TO THE PHANTOM AND GET IN.

MINUTES LATER, THE LUMINOUS FIGURE WAS JUMPING FOR THE WINDOW...



AN UNORTHODOX WAY OF ENTERING, BUT I'M SURE SIR JOHN WOULDN'T LET ME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR!

THEN...



INSIDE THE ROOM...

IT'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE! I CAN'T HAVE MADE A MISTAKE!



I KNEW IT! THIS PROVES THE IDENTITY OF THE BAT! BUT SOMEONE'S COMING!

THE DOOR OPENED...

GOOD EVENING, BAT. I'VE COME TO PLAY IN YOUR LEAGUE!

WHAT THE...

TRAVERS, RYDER'S SECRETARY, ENTERED THE ROOM...

THE RUBBER FACE MASK FOOLED ME AT THE EXHIBITION, BUT YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE. YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE USED THE SAME BRIEF CASE AS TRAVERS AND AS THE BAT!

YOUR EQUIPMENT CHEST ALSO ANSWERS A FEW QUESTIONS. YOUR SUIT HAS SUCTION PADS TO ENABLE YOU TO CLING TO WALLS. AND THIS GUN FIRES A REINFORCED THREAD WHICH GRIPS TO BUILDINGS! YOU DON'T ACTUALLY FLY, BUT GLIDE ALONG THE THREAD!

MY FATHER INVENTED THOSE THINGS, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER GADGETS WHICH RYDER STOLE FROM HIM WITH CLEVER LAWYER TRICKS. I SWORE I'D GET EVEN WITH RYDER!

MAYBE - BUT YOU CAN'T GO ROUND STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY!

I DIDN'T TOUCH A PENNY OF THE MONEY! I SOLD THE PAINTINGS AND JEWELS AND GAVE AWAY THE PROCEEDS. I JUST WANTED TO HUMILIATE HIM! LIKE HE DID MY FATHER!

THE PHANTOM WAS THOUGHTFUL FOR A FEW MOMENTS. THEN...

I'VE JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL. DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING WHILE I'M GONE...

OUTSIDE THE ROOM, THE PHANTOM HID TO SEE WHETHER TRAVERS WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE. HE DIDN'T!

HE'S A CRIME-FIGHTER, PAUL! DON'T ASK ME HIS REAL IDENTITY --- ONLY HE KNOWS THAT. BUT I RECKON HE'LL BE HITTING YOUR HEADLINES FOR A GOOD WHILE TO COME!

SOMEHOW I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO HAND HIM IN. I'LL PHONE THE POLICE AND THEN IT'S UP TO THEM. THE MAIN THING IS I CAN CLEAR MY NAME.

BEFORE HE LEFT THE HOUSE JIM COLLECTED THE BAT'S EQUIPMENT, THEN PHONED HIS EDITOR...

LISTEN, PAUL, NO TIME FOR EXCUSES... I'VE GOT A REAL SCOOP FOR YOU - AN EXCLUSIVE ON HOW THE BAT WAS CAPTURED BY THE PHANTOM.

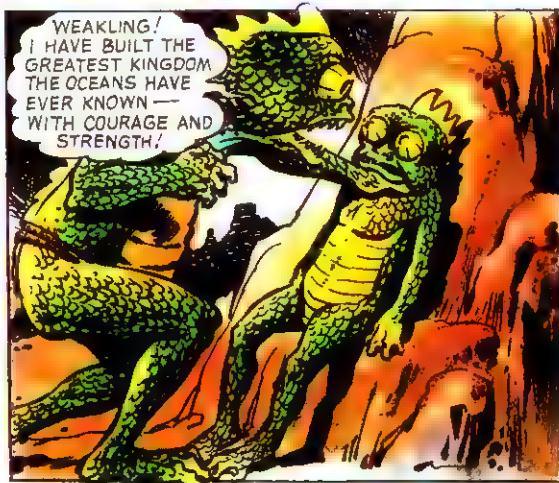
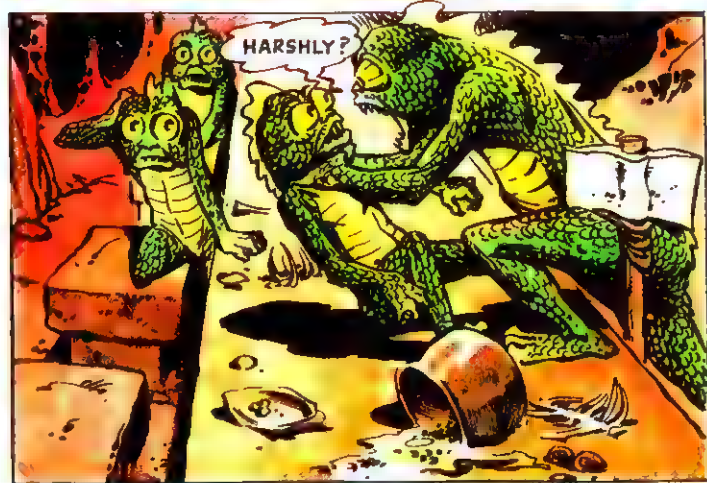
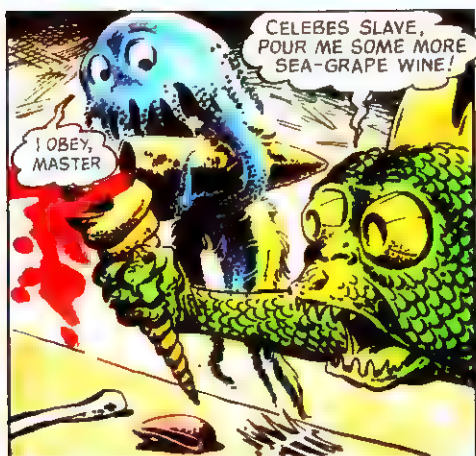
WHO? THE PHANTOM? WHO ON EARTH'S THE PHANTOM?



NORSTAD of the DEEP



FAR, FAR BELOW THE PACIFIC OCEAN, NORSTAD, THE UNDER-WATER WARRIOR KING, RULED HIS KINGDOM AS HE WON IT—WITH BRUTE STRENGTH.



RAGE FLAMED IN HIS GLOBULAR EYES...AND THE EVIL NORSTAD TURNED ON HIS COURTIERS...

WEAKLINGS, ALL OF YOU! YOU PRIDE YOURSELF IN YOUR STUPID ART AND CULTURE — BUT THAT WILL NOT HOLD OUR KINGDOM TOGETHER!

NORSTAD CALLED HIS WARRIORS AROUND HIM...

ON THE NEW DAY WE GO TO WAR — TO CAPTURE MORE SLAVES TO SERVE US!

LORD AND MASTER, WE PROTEST. YOUR WARLIKE ACTIONS HAVE MADE US THE SCOURGE OF THE DEEP.

SHAMED BY THEIR MASTER'S CRUELITIES, THE COURTIERS KNEW THE TIME HAD COME TO REVOLT...

BAH! LET THAT TOUGHEN YOU UP!

THEIR PREARRANGED PLAN WAS PUT INTO ACTION. WAITING WARRIORS RUSHED FORWARD... A HUGE NET WAS THROWN OVER THE BRUTAL KING!

QUICK, QUICK — THE NET!

AAAGH! SO IT IS A PLOT! YOU MUTINEERS SHALL HAVE YOUR BONES PICKED CLEAN FOR THIS!

OUTNUMBERED AND SURPRISED, NORSTAD LOST HIS FIRST BATTLE...

PULL THE NET TIGHTER! HURRY!

YOU SCUM! I SHALL FEED YOU TO THE CLAMS!

A SEA-VINE POLE WAS THREADED THROUGH THE NET, AND THE PRISONER WAS CARRIED AWAY...

WE WILL SUPPER YOU NO MORE, NORSTAD.

TRAITORS! MAY THE CURSE OF LEVIATHAN BE UPON YOU!

THE STRUGGLING FORM WAS CAST OVER A DEEP, SHEER PRECIPICE...

JUSTICE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, NORSTAD. NOW YOU SHALL JOIN YOUR VICTIMS IN THE VALLEY OF NO RETURN!

AIEEE...

AAAGH... I MUST FREE MYSELF. BEFORE THE PRESSURE OF THE DEEP CRUSHES MY BODY...

ONLY HIS IMMENSE STRENGTH ENABLED NORSTAD TO SURVIVE THE AGONISING DESCENT...

I STILL LIVE... BUT THE PRESSURE AND COLD OF THE DEEP OVERCOME ME

PAINFULLY, SLOWLY, NORSTAD CUT AWAY THE NETTING ON SHARP CORAL.

I...I HAVE LOST MY STRENGTH...

THEN THE ONCE-FEARLESS BEAST REALISED JUST HOW WEAK HE HAD BECOME...

THE SICKNESS OF THE DEPTHS HAS GOT ME.

AIEE! A SQUID! I MUST NOT LET IT NEAR ME!

I USED TO FIGHT GIANT SQUIDS, NOW I AM AFRAID OF EVEN THEIR YOUNG. MY COURAGE, MY POWER... THEY HAVE LEFT ME!

AND ALL I HAVE FOR NOURISHMENT IS VILE SEA-PLANTS.

FROM THAT DAY ON, NORSTAD WAS DOOMED TO LIVE IN FEAR, HIDING ON THE MUDDY SEA-BED... BUT SOME WEEKS LATER, HUMAN UNDERWATER EXPLORERS ARRIVED ON THE SURFACE...

WE ARE OVER THE DEEPEST SPOT NOW, MIKE. THIS SHOULD BE A REAL TEST FOR THE BUBBLE!

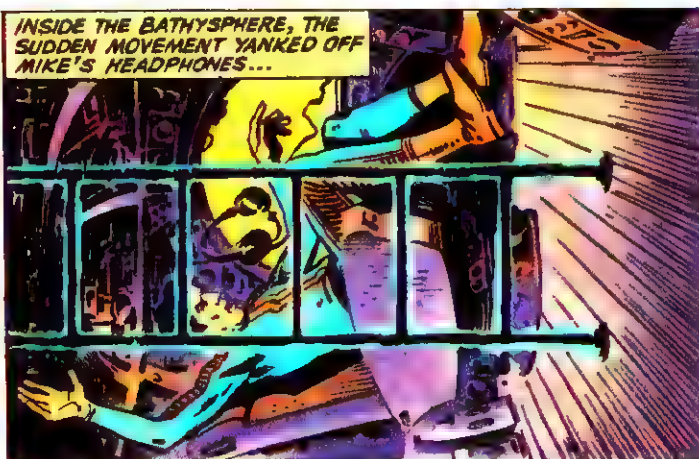
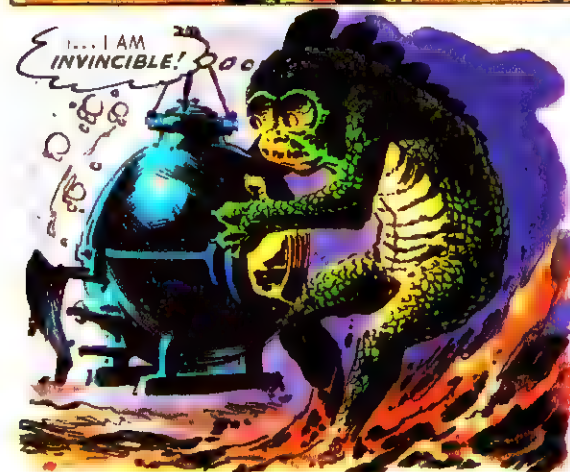
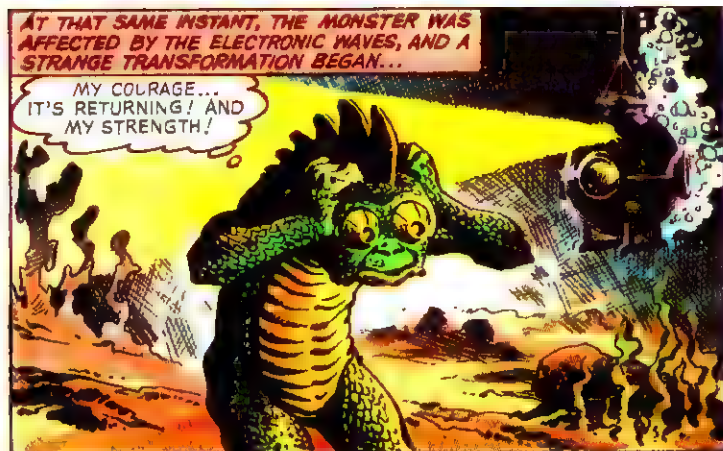
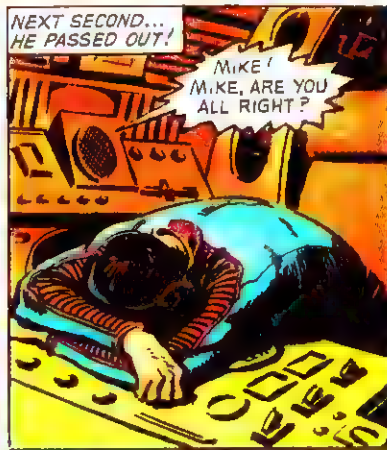
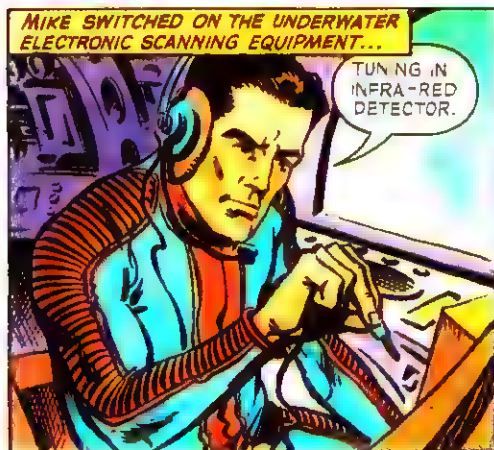
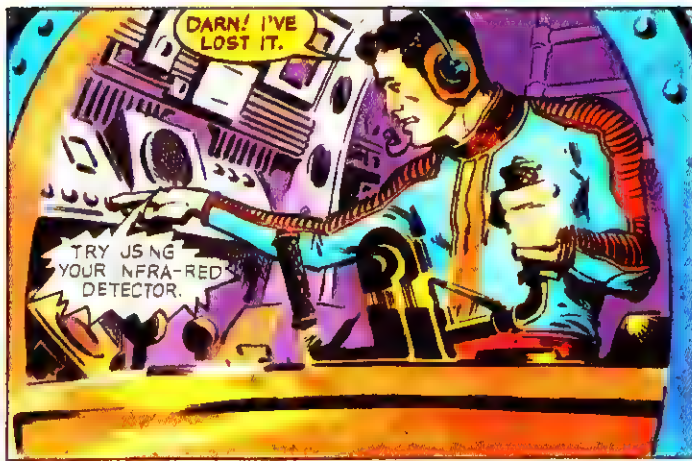
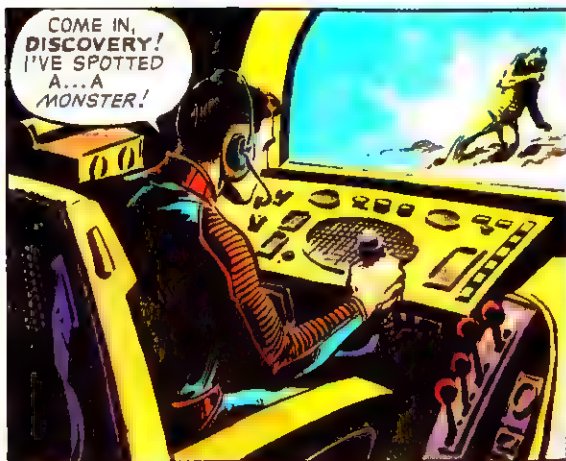
THE BUBBLE—A NEWLY-BUILT EXPLORATORY BATHYSPHERE—WAS LOWERED INTO THE DEEP UNCHARTERED SEA-POCKET KNOWN AS "THE VALLEY OF NO RETURN"...

BUBBLE CALLING DISCOVERY... NEARING MAXIMUM DEPTH, AND IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GREEN!

FOR LONG, SILENT HOURS, MIKE CARTER, OCEANOGRAPHER, SEARCHED THE UNKNOWN SEA-BED IN THE BATHYSPHERE. THEN, SUDDENLY...

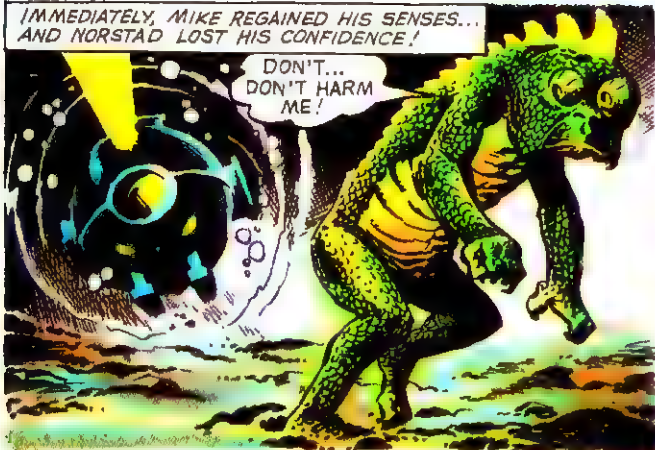
WHAT THE...

AAAGH! A DEMON IS AFTER ME! I MUST HIDE!



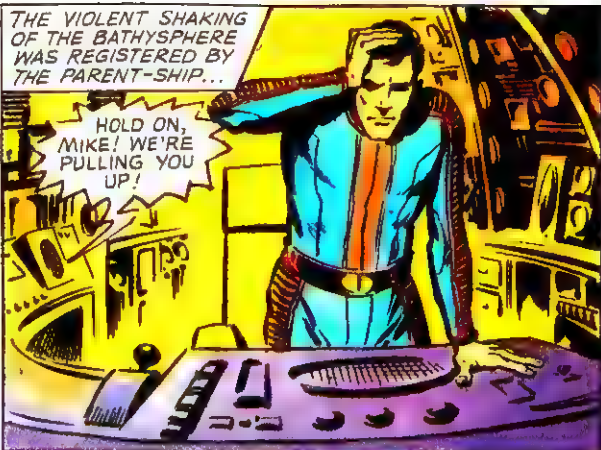
IMMEDIATELY, MIKE REGAINED HIS SENSES... AND NORSTAD LOST HIS CONFIDENCE!

DON'T...
DON'T HARM
ME!



THE VIOLENT SHAKING
OF THE BATHYSPHERE
WAS REGISTERED BY
THE PARENT-SHIP...

HOLD ON,
MIKE! WE'RE
PULLING YOU
UP!



MINUTES LATER...

WHAT
HAPPENED?
THAT WAS SOME
KNOCK YOU TOOK
DOWN THERE!

I... I'M
NOT SURE,
DOC.



BAFFLED BY THE WEIRD EXPERIENCE,
MIKE DECIDED TO GIVE NOTHING AWAY...

WHAT WAS THE
TROUBLE, MIKE?

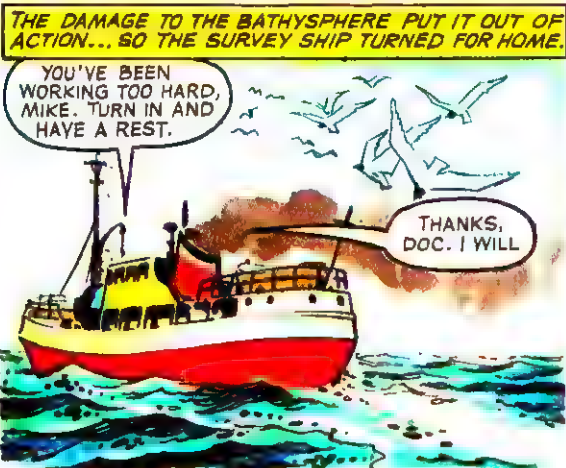
I GUESS I
MUST HAVE BUMPED
A CORAL REEF. SORRY,
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN
CONCENTRATING.



THE DAMAGE TO THE BATHYSPHERE PUT IT OUT OF
ACTION... SO THE SURVEY SHIP TURNED FOR HOME.

YOU'VE BEEN
WORKING TOO HARD,
MIKE. TURN IN AND
HAVE A REST.

THANKS,
DOC. I WILL



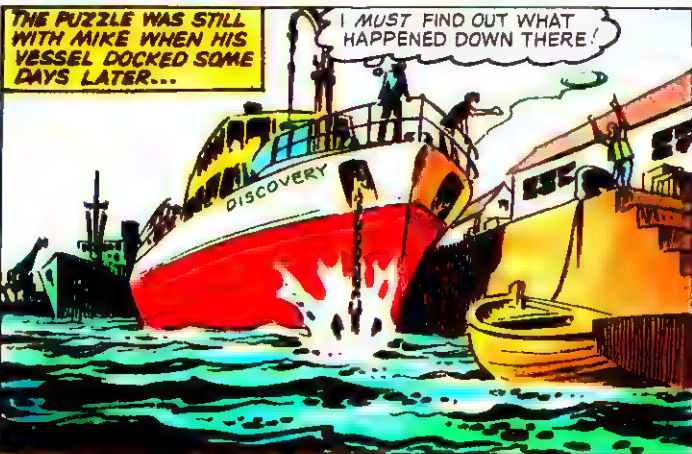
LATER, IN HIS
CABIN...

IT CAN'T BE A
DREAM. I... I FELT I
WAS THAT MONSTER.
AS THOUGH MY MIND
BECAME HIS...



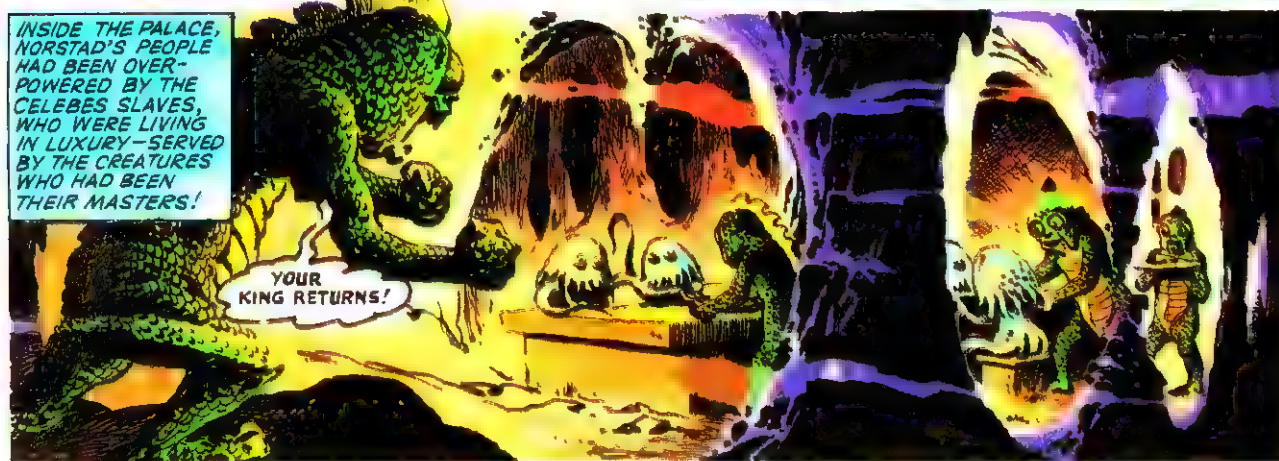
THE PUZZLE WAS STILL
WITH MIKE WHEN HIS
VESSEL DOCKED SOME
DAYS LATER...

I MUST FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENED DOWN THERE!



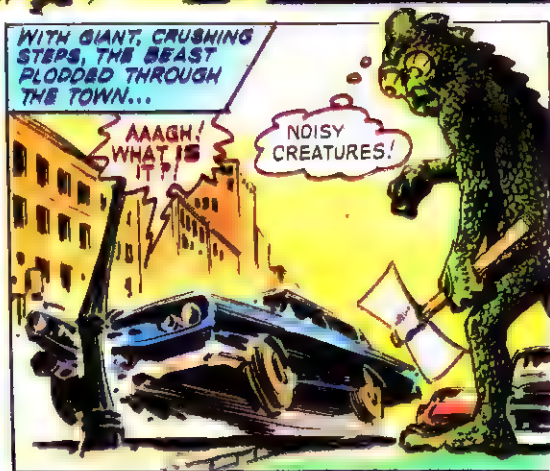
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY TO DO THAT—PUT THOSE
HEADPHONES ON
AGAIN...





INSIDE THE PALACE, NORSTAD'S PEOPLE HAD BEEN OVER-POWERED BY THE CELEBES SLAVES, WHO WERE LIVING IN LUXURY—SERVED BY THE CREATURES WHO HAD BEEN THEIR MASTERS!

YOUR KING RETURNS!

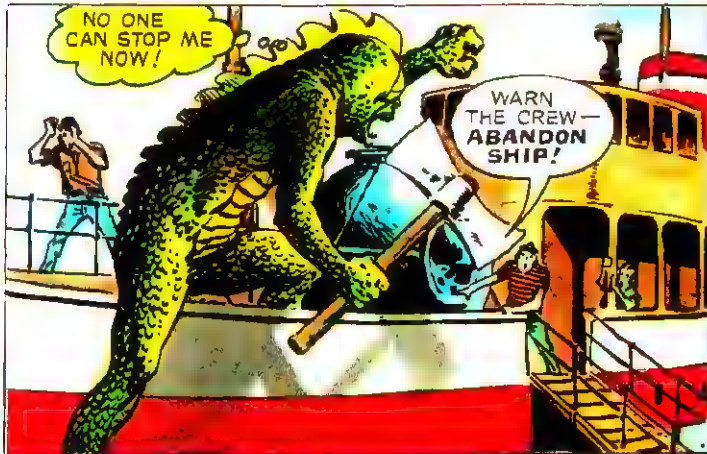




SOON THE POLICE MOVED IN... BUT TO NO EFFECT!



THE QUEST LED NORSTAD TO...



ROBBED OF HIS STRENGTH AND COURAGE,
THE MONSTER TURNED AND SCURRIED AWAY...

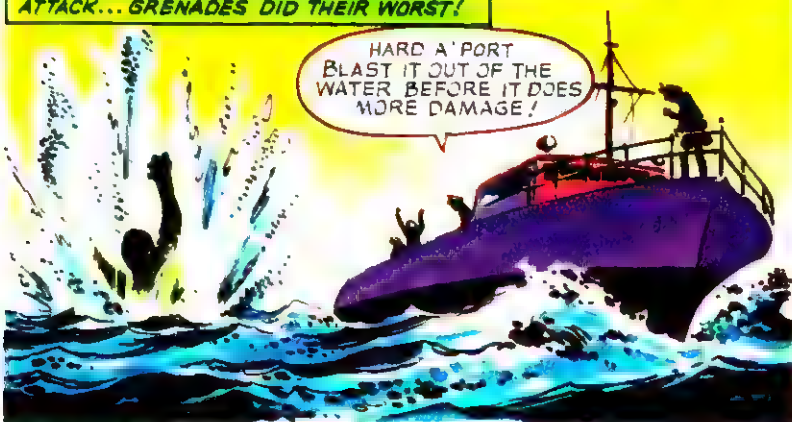
LET ME
GO! LET ME
GO!



I MEAN
NO HARM.

THE HARBOUR POLICE WERE QUICK TO
ATTACK... GRENADES DID THEIR WORST!

HARD A'PORT
BLAST IT OUT OF THE
WATER BEFORE IT DOES
MORE DAMAGE!



THE POLICE ATTACK WAS
SWIFT — AND EFFECTIVE!

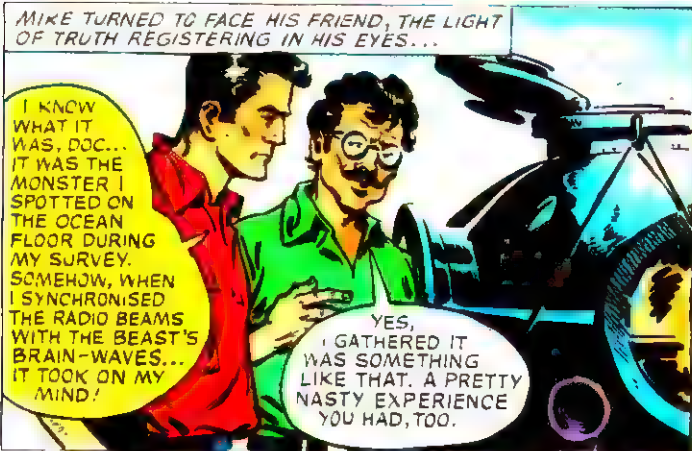
PANIC OVER, DOC!
IT'S DEAD — WHATEVER
IT WAS!



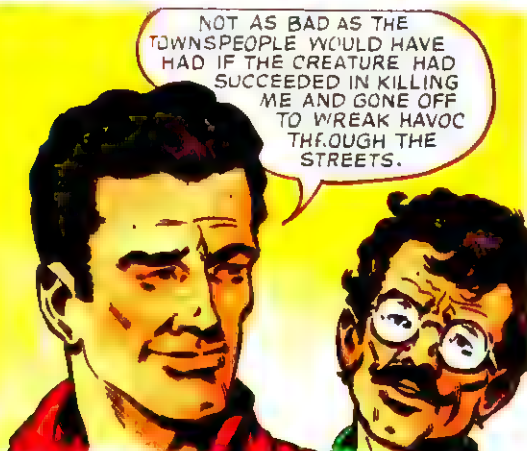
MIKE TURNED TO FACE HIS FRIEND, THE LIGHT
OF TRUTH REGISTERING IN HIS EYES...

I KNOW
WHAT IT
WAS, DOC...
IT WAS THE
MONSTER I
SPOTTED ON
THE OCEAN
FLOOR DURING
MY SURVEY.
SOMEHOW, WHEN
I SYNCHRONISED
THE RADIO BEAMS
WITH THE BEAST'S
BRAIN-WAVES...
IT TOOK ON MY
MIND!

YES,
I GATHERED IT
WAS SOMETHING
LIKE THAT. A PRETTY
NASTY EXPERIENCE
YOU HAD, TOO.

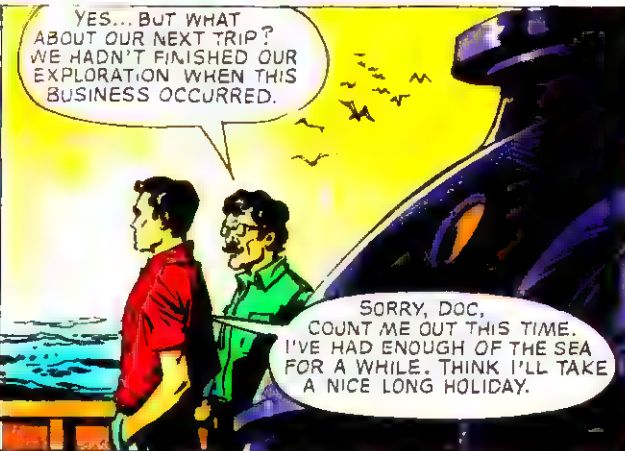


NOT AS BAD AS THE
TOWNSPEOPLE WOULD HAVE
HAD IF THE CREATURE HAD
SUCCEEDED IN KILLING
ME AND GONE OFF
TO WREAK HAVOC
THROUGH THE
STREETS.



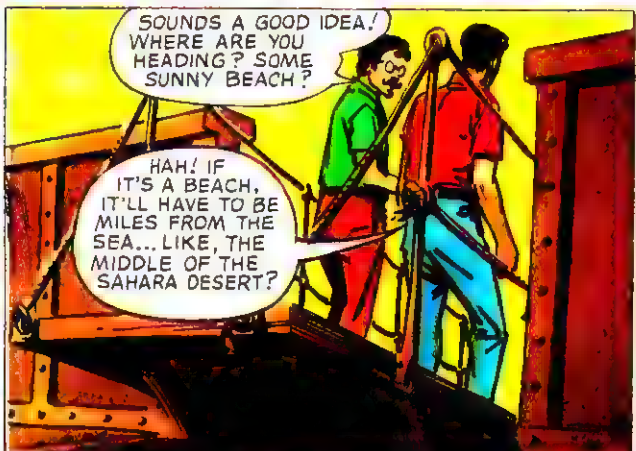
YES... BUT WHAT
ABOUT OUR NEXT TRIP?
WE HADN'T FINISHED OUR
EXPLORATION WHEN THIS
BUSINESS OCCURRED.

SORRY, DOC,
COUNT ME OUT THIS TIME.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE SEA
FOR A WHILE. THINK I'LL TAKE
A NICE LONG HOLIDAY.

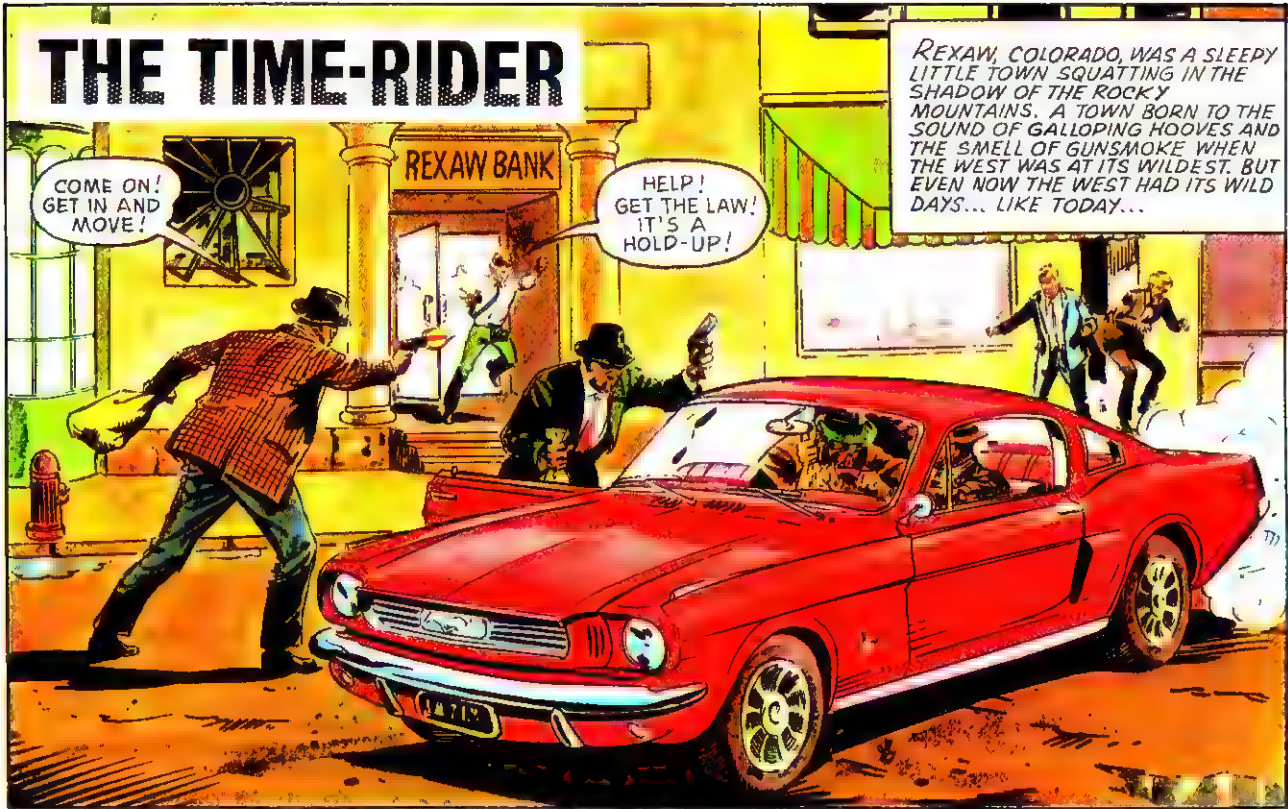


SOUNDS A GOOD IDEA!
WHERE ARE YOU
HEADING? SOME
SUNNY BEACH?

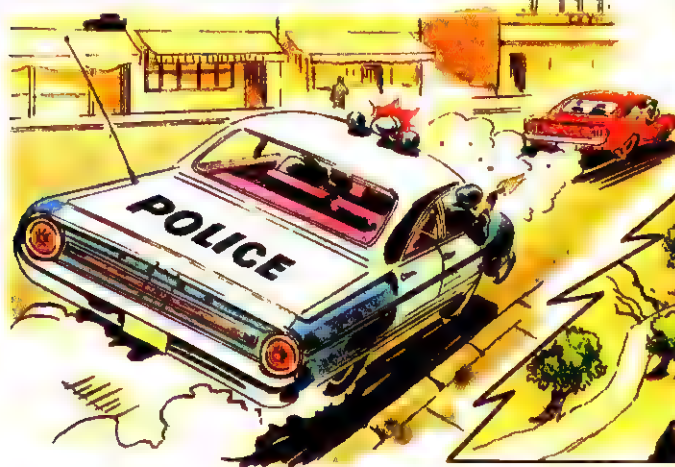
HAH! IF
IT'S A BEACH,
IT'LL HAVE TO BE
MILES FROM THE
SEA... LIKE, THE
MIDDLE OF THE
SAHARA DESERT?



THE TIME-RIDER

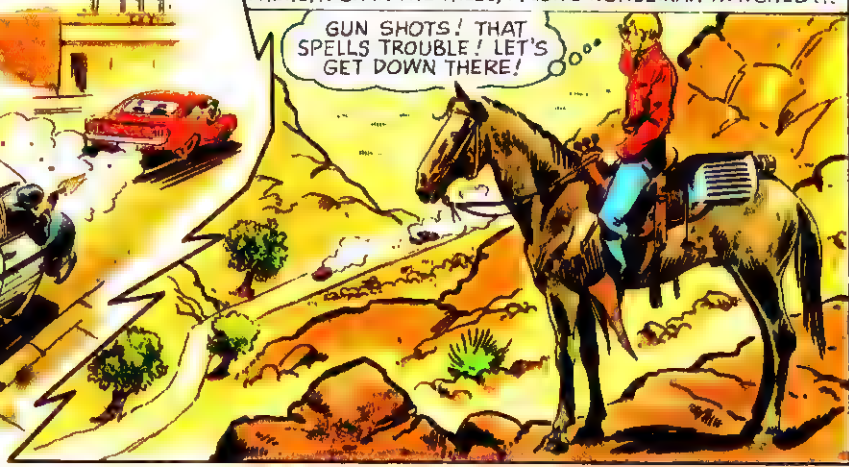


A PATROL CAR WAS DRAWN BY THE SOUND OF SHOTS - AND GAVE CHASE...

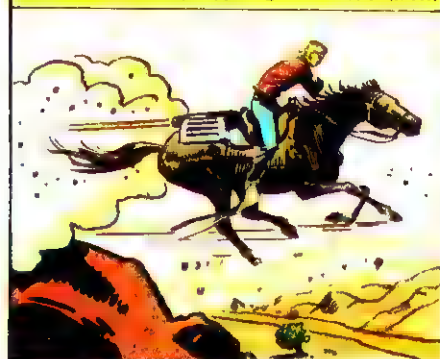


THE CARS RACED OUT OF TOWN INTO OPEN COUNTRY. THERE, HIGH IN THE HILLS, A LONE HORSEMAN WATCHED...

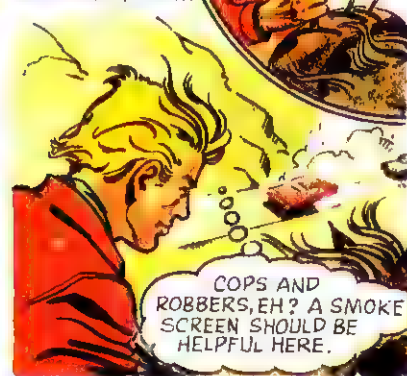
GUN SHOTS! THAT SPELLS TROUBLE! LET'S GET DOWN THERE!



THE HORSEMAN WAS KASH PEARCE, MILLION-DOLLAR RANCHER - AND GENIUS! AMONG HIS MANY INCREDIBLE INVENTIONS, THE MECHANICAL HORSE! AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON JETS APPEARED AND BLASTED THE HORSE INTO THE AIR...



KASH CROUCHED LOW, DREW BACK THE THROTTLE, AND THE MECHANICAL HORSE SLID THROUGH THE AIR AT OVER A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR...



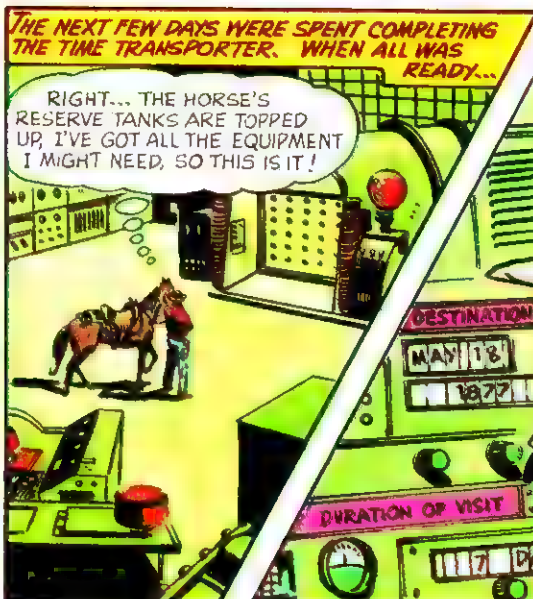
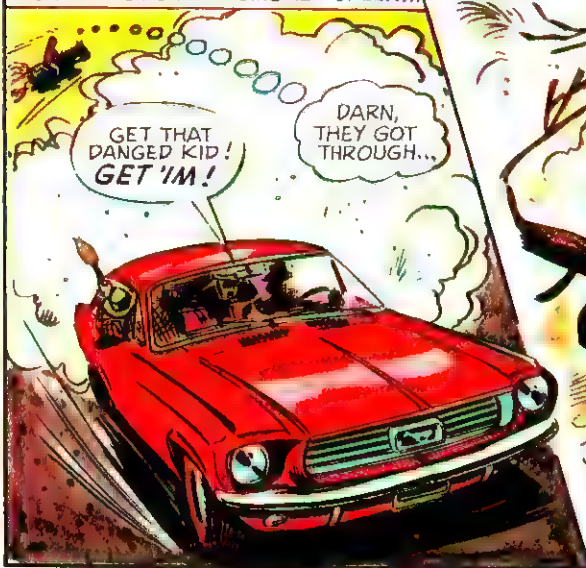
SECONDS LATER KASH SWEEPED IN FRONT OF THE ROBBERS' CAR, HIS HORSE'S POWERFUL ENGINES BELCHING BLACK SMOKE.



BUT THE CRIMINALS' CAR SAILED
RIGHT THROUGH THE SMOKE SCREEN...

THE PATROL CAR DIDN'T ESCAPE
SO EASILY...

RASH LANDED AND CAME TO THE
CONFRONTATION...



A MOMENT LATER THE JOURNEY THROUGH TIME COMMENCED, TAKING KASH AND HIS MECHANICAL HORSE BACK TO THE HEART OF THE WILD WEST!



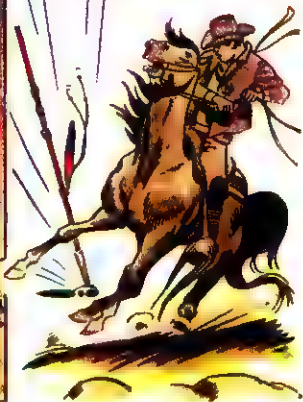
IN A FEW STRANGE SECONDS MAN AND HORSE MATERIALISED IN A TIME AND PLACE OF A CENTURY PAST...

WELL, HERE WE ARE, BOY. IF MY CALCULATIONS WERE CORRECT, WE'RE NOW LIVING IN THE OLD WEST!



SUDDENLY...

INDIANS!



KASH DECIDED TO PLAY IT COOL, AS THE BRAVES APPROACHED...

COME ON THEN... JUST A BIT NEARER, YOU SCREAMIN' APES...

KASH FLIPPED A SWITCH ON THE HORSE'S CONTROL PANEL, AND THE INDIANS WERE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST OF THE JETS!

WAAAAH!

AEIEEE

AIEEE!

AAAGH!



BUT AS KASH RODE OUT...

MORE OF 'EM! IF I CAN GET UP ENOUGH SPEED...



THE POWERFUL ENGINES LIFTED THE HORSE CLEAR WITHOUT AN INCH TO SPARE!

MADE IT - JUST!



LATER...

LOOKS LIKE WE ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT TIME, FELLAH. ACCORDING TO THIS, SAWYER HAS KILLED ONLY TWO MEN. WONDER IF WE CAN STOP HIM BEFORE HE TAKES THE OTHER EIGHT I READ ABOUT IN THE HISTORY BOOK?



KASH RODE SLOWLY ON INTO TOWN...

'SCUSE ME, MARSHAL, BUT I'M LOOKIN' FOR BUCK SAWYER...

YOU ARE? WHAT FLOWERS D'YOU WANT ON YOUR GRAVE, SON?





I'M NOT PLANNIN' FOR A FUNERAL... I'M A BOUNTY HUNTER.

SO WAS THE LAST GUY WHO WENT LOOKIN' FOR SAWYER! STILL, IF YOU'RE BENT ON HAVING YOUR HEAD BLOWN OFF... LAST TIME I HEARD OF BUCK SAWYER HE WAS HOLDIN' UP IN THE BLACK ROCK HILLS.

THAT NIGHT, UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, AND SEEING WITH INFRARED GOGGLES, KASH HEADED OUT INTO THE BLACK HILLS...



THIS DETECTOR WILL PICK UP ANY HUMAN PULSE FOR MILES AROUND. I'VE NEUTRALISED MYSELF, SO IF SAWYER IS AROUND HERE...

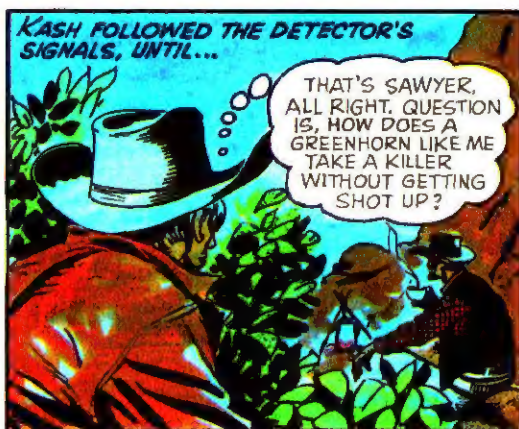


JUST THEN...

I'M IN LUCK! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT TWO MILES FROM HERE...

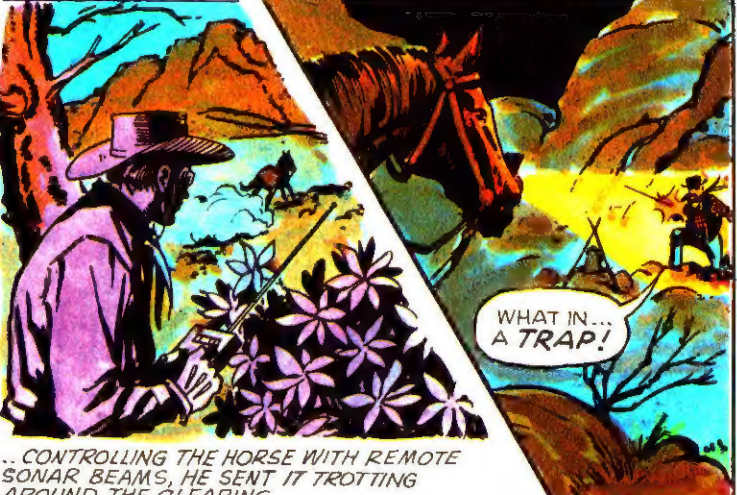
KASH WAITED UNTIL THE OUTLAW HAD BEDDED DOWN, THEN...

WHEN THE MECHANICAL HORSE WAS OPPOSITE KASH, A POWERFUL LIGHT FLICKERED FROM THE HORSE'S HEAD...



KASH FOLLOWED THE DETECTOR'S SIGNALS, UNTIL...

THAT'S SAWYER, ALL RIGHT. QUESTION IS, HOW DOES A GREENHORN LIKE ME TAKE A KILLER WITHOUT GETTING SHOT UP?



WHAT IN... A TRAP!

... CONTROLLING THE HORSE WITH REMOTE SONAR BEAMS, HE SENT IT TROTTING AROUND THE CLEARING.



KASH MOVED FROM THE BUSHES...

ALL RIGHT, SAWYER - DROP YOUR GUN!

WHA...



YOU WON'T TAKE ME, MISTER. THE NEXT BULLET'S THROUGH YOUR HEAD!

AAGH...



KASH ACTED QUICKLY! HE JABBED AT A BUTTON ON THE HORSE CONTROL BOX, AND HE CHARGED FORWARD.

NO! GET AWAY!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY OF ESCAPING... SAWYER TOOK IT!

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE... WITHOUT THE HORSE I WOULD HAVE BEEN A DEAD MAN. MAYBE I SHOULD CHUCK IT IN. DON'T MUCH FANCY BEING A DEAD HERO...

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, KASH RELATED HIS EXPERIENCE TO THE TOWN MARSHAL, WHEN...

HEY! HEAR THE NEWS? BUCK SAWYER HELD UP THE DENVER BANK THIS MORNING! GOT CLEAN AWAY WITH FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS! AN' HE SHOT UP TWO CLERKS—JUST FOR FUN!

THE HISTORY BOOK SAID HE KILLED TEN MEN. THAT MEANS THERE'S ANOTHER SIX YET TO DIE... I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



MARSHAL—I'M GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER CRACK AT TAKING SAWYER. WILL YOU HELP ME SET UP A TRAP?

YOU **MUST** BE LOCO, BOY! BUT SURE, I'LL HELP YOU, S'LONG AS I'M NOT AROUND WHEN SAWYER FILLS YOU FULL O' LEAD!



KASH SOON HAD A PLAN WORKED OUT... AND WORD WAS PUT AROUND THAT THERE WAS TO BE A BIG SHIPMENT OF GOLD ON THE NEXT STAGE OUT OF TOWN. KASH WAS TO BE THE DRIVER OF THAT STAGE!

GOOD LUCK, YOUNG FELLAH. BUT JUST ONE THING... IF YOU MUST GET YOURSELF KILLED, TRY TO SAVE MY DEPUTIES FROM GETTIN' THEIR HEADS BLOWN OFF. I NEED 'EM!



DON'T WORRY, MARSHAL—THE WAY I FIGURE IT, NOBODY'S GOING TO GET HURT—EXCEPT SAWYER! HAVE A CELL READY FOR HIM, WILL YOU?

KASH FELT SURE THAT SAWYER WOULD TRY A HOLD-UP. AND FIVE MILES OUT OF TOWN...

THEN SAWYER APPEARED...

THE STAGE PULLED OUT OF TOWN AND HEADED DEEP INTO OPEN COUNTRY—OUTLAW COUNTRY.



WHOOA! WHOOA, BOYS!



THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS AND YOU'LL STAY IN ONE PIECE. NOW I WANT THAT GOLD!



THE OUTLAW DIDN'T EXPECT ANY OTHER OPPOSITION, BUT A DEPUTY WAS HIDING INSIDE THE STAGE...

WHAT... DOWN, CURSE YOU!



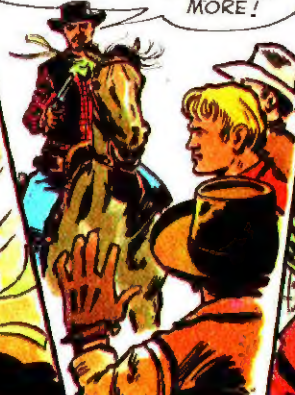
THE WELL-AIMED BULLET SPLIT THE OUTLAW'S SADDLE-STRAP BUT AS SAWYER HIT THE DUST, HE ROLLED AND FIRED...

HOLD IT, DOG! THE NEXT ONE'LL PUT YOU IN A COFFIN! NOW, THE GOLD!



KASH'S PLAN WAS WORKING PERFECTLY... WHEN SAWYER HAD ALL THE GOLD HE COULD CARRY, HE MOUNTED THE MECHANICAL HORSE...

NOW TURN AROUND, AND DON'T LOOK BACK TILL YOU CAN'T HEAR THIS HORSE NO MORE!



KASH HAD PREVIOUSLY SET THE HORSE'S CONTROLS SO THAT SAWYER WOULD BE ABLE TO RIDE OFF, BUT THEN...

OKAY, FELLAHS, THIS IS WHERE THE FUN BEGINS. GET READY WITH A ROPE...



KASH OPERATED THE REMOTE CONTROLS AND THE HORSE'S JETS BURST INTO LIFE...



AAAAAGH!
LET ME DOWN!
HELP!
HELLLP!

THE HORSE HOVERED
THIRTY FEET ABOVE THE
GROUND...



GET ME DOWN,
YOU SCUM! OR I'LL
BLAST EVERY BONE
IN YOUR BODIES!

LOOK OUT...
I'LL HAVE TO
BRING HIM
DOWN...

KASH PRESSED ANOTHER BUTTON,
AND THE HORSE SHOT UPWARDS...



AAAAAGH!

THE RIDE BACK TO TOWN WAS A
PAINFUL ONE FOR BUCK SAWYER...



SATISFIED,
MARSHAL?

WELL, I KNOW IT
SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT I
COME FROM THE
FUTURE... ABOUT A
HUNDRED YEARS
FROM NOW.

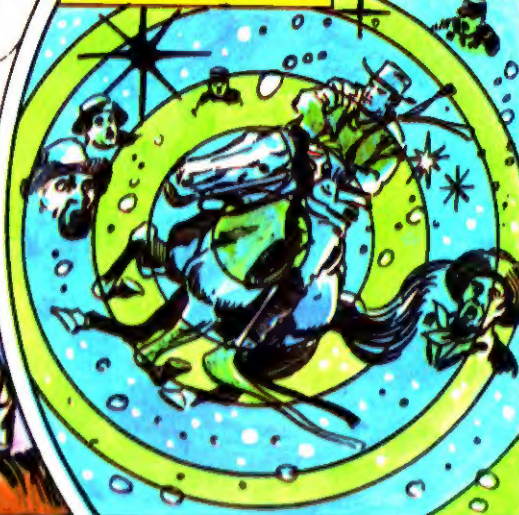
SURE, MISTER...
BUT WHAT'S THIS
MY DEPUTIES TELL
ME ABOUT A FLYING
HORSE? JUST WHO
ARE YOU?

SURE, SURE - AND I'M THE
PROPHET ELIJAH! NOW HOW ABOUT
YOU SPENDING A SPELL IN MY JAIL
'TIL YOU CARE TO TELL ME THE
TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF AND
THIS HERE FLYING HORSE?



BUT - BUT
YOU CAN'T! YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

AT THAT MOMENT, FATE PLAYED A
TRUMP CARD... KASH'S TIME IN THE
WILD WEST WAS UP...



FIVE HUND-THOUSAND
SECONDS LATER...



LOOK, YOU CAN'T ARREST...
HEY! WHERE - WHERE AM I?
I FEEL KIND OF DIZZY, BUT... OF
COURSE... I'M BACK IN THE
PRESENT! IT WORKED! MY
TIME TRANSPORTER
WORKED!

LATER...

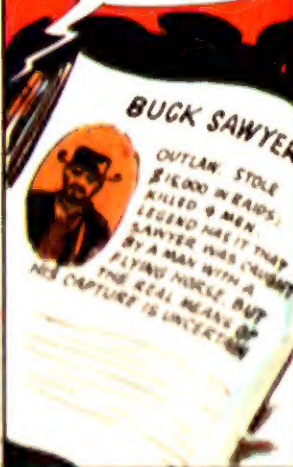


HMM, LET'S
TAKE ANOTHER LOOK
AT THAT RECORD OF
BUCK SAWYER...
SHOULD BE MORE
INTERESTING, NOW
I KNOW A BIT MORE
ABOUT THE
GUY...

HERE WE ARE... BUCK
SAWYER - BANK AND TRAIN
ROBBER, AND MURDERER...
BUT - BUT I DON'T BELIEVE
IT... HOW CAN...



BUT THAT MEANS I
ACTUALLY CHANGED
THE COURSE OF HISTORY!
IT JUST CAN'T BE
TRUE... OR CAN IT?



BUCK SAWYER



OUTLAW. STOLE
\$15,000 IN RAIDS.
KILLED 9 MEN.
SANTER HAD IT THAT
SANTER WAS DELIGHTED
BY A MAN WITH A
FLYING HORSE. BUT
THE REAL MEANS OF
HIS CAPTURE IS UNCLE TOM'S

POW!

ANNUAL 1971

